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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-188
Thursday
30 September 1993

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-188 30 September 1993

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Baltic Presidents Meet With Clinton in New York

LD2809164393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1221 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia was the main topic at the meeting in New York Monday night (12:30 local time) between U.S. President Clinton and Presidents of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis, Algirdas Brazauskas and Lennart Meri, the newspaper PAEVALEHT was told by the press-secretary of Estonian President Enn Eesmaa.

Lennart Meri who addressed the meeting on behalf of the Baltic states said that Russian President Yeltsin had a unique opportunity to show his democratism to the world by signing shortly an agreement on Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. The parliament that hampered the Russian leader is virtually a thing of the past and now is the right time to sign inter-state treaties between Russia and the Baltic states which would lay the ground work for truly good-neighbour and friendly relations, says the address. The heads of the Baltic states also said that Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were reliable partners. Lennart Meri informed the U.S. president about the situation in Estonia in terms of human rights' observance and briefed him on the economic development.

Bill Clinton promised to provide economic and political support to the Baltic states and recommended they continue the constructive dialog with Russian democratic leadership. Lennart Meri invited the U.S. President to visit Estonia at a time suitable for him. Bill Clinton promised to give serious consideration to the invitation, says the press-secretary of the Estonian President. The New York correspondent of the newspaper POSTIMEES says that Bill Clinton did not voice concern over the observance of the rights of national minorities in the Baltic states but favored granting them political rights to take part in the political processes in their republics. At the end of the meeting Guntis Ulmanis handed over to Bill Clinton a letter signed by the three Baltic presidents where they ask that the radio station "Free Europe" which the U.S. administration intended to close, continue its work.

According to news agencies, the White House statement released following the results of the meeting reiterated strong U.S. support for the early, unconditional and rapid withdrawal of the remaining Russian forces from Latvia and Estonia. The document also points to Washington's preparedness to provide support for all parties concerned in order to solve the problem peacefully, for example, to subsidise housing construction for 5-7 thousand Russian servicemen being withdrawan from the region. The last Russian military units left Lithuania August 31. Some 20,000 Russian officers and men remain in Latvia and Estonia.

Ukrainian Official Addresses UN Symposium on Security

WS2809125493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Diplomats, political experts, state officials, and scientists from Western Europe, Asia, the United States, Canada, and the CIS countries have gathered in Kiev to discuss modern trends in international relations; issues of political, nuclear, and environmental security in the former Soviet Union; and the role of the international community and the CIS countries in those processes. Participants in the UN-sponsored symposium were greeted by (Leonid Kosyatynskyy), the president's representative in Kiev; Borys Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; and [name indistinct], the UN representative in Ukraine.

Vasyl Durdynets, vice chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, who headed the symposium's organizing committee, delivered a report during the morning session. In particular, he emphasized that because of its geopolitical situation, the Ukrainian state sees its security as interdependent with the security of the European continent. This is why it attaches great importance to the collective [word indistinct] of conflict-preventing mechanisms. This should become a priority in the activities of international regional and national organizations, as well as government institutions.

[Begin Durdynets recording] Ukraine does practically everything that depends on it in this direction. First of all, the Supreme Council, the president, and the government do their best to preserve the social peace in Ukraine and achieve internal stabilization. We try to resolve all the acute problems in a civilized and conflict-free manner, and proceed down the path of building a law-governed Ukraine, its society, and common sense. This is exactly how we acted several days ago when we adopted the law on early legislative and presidential elections, set for next March and June, respectively. Acute problems include the one of nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine. I would like to say that this issue is among the top priorities on the agenda of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's eighth session. [end recording]

The first chairman of the Ukrainian legislature again stated Ukraine's invariable official position on its non-nuclear status. However, the road to the full elimination of nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory, said V. Durdynets, depends on the solution of an entire array of political, economic, and extremely complicated ethical problems, which should be resolved based on international law, [word indistinct] realistic guarantees for national security—Ukraine's in particular—on the part of the international community. The hope was expressed for constructive results of the symposium that would promote political and economic stability in the CIS countries and the establishment of mutually beneficial and civilized international relations, as well as the creation of a common security system.

Commander Discusses Role of New Peacekeeping Forces

PM2909144593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 1

[Interview with Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander of Collective Peacekeeping Forces, by correspondent Oleg Falichev; place and date not given: "Colonel General Boris Pyankov: Collective Forces Will Go to Tajikistan in October"]

[Text] [Falichev] Boris Yevgenyevich, what made it necessary to create the Collective Peacekeeping Forces?

[Pyankov] As you know, there has been a lot of talk about the CIS Joint Armed Forces but they have simply not been created. The new agreement on the Collective Peacekeeping Forces arose in a considerably changed political situation and set the CIS member-states an entirely realistic task: By 1 October this year to form Collective Peacekeeping Forces numbering around 25,000 men and ensure their arrival at base locations in Tajikistan. Russia has already assigned the 201st Motorized Rifle Division and other units and subunits to them.

The heads of state also reached agreement on the question of financing the collective forces. It was resolved as follows: National formations are fully financed by the states sending them according to the norms existing in these states. While the Collective Peacekeeping Forces command and combat support units which are on the coalition's strength are financed from the budget, which is formulated on the basis of agreed quotas. Russia is contributing 50 percent, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan 15 percent each, and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan 10 percent each. So the Collective Peacekeeping Forces will arrive in Tajikistan by mid-October.

[Falichev] What will these forces' tasks be and what principle will be used to select soldiers and officers for them?

[Pyankov] The Collective Peacekeeping Forces are being created to "stabilize the situation in Tajikistan and maintain peace," as the agreement says. Soldiers and officers from various regions and military units will be selected for them solely on a voluntary basis.

[Falichev] What enabled the heads of state to agree and to solve such a difficult question so quickly on this occasion?

[Pyankov] I suppose the real threat of the spread of extremism throughout the CIS, as well as the exacerbation of the situation in Tajikistan associated with increasingly frequent breakthroughs by bandit formations from Afghanistan. Obviously the growing general trend toward unification and integration cannot be discounted.

Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, wrote an in-depth, very persuasive report about the need to create the Collective Peacekeeping Forces. This, in my view, also influenced the positions of the heads of state.

[Falichev] What is the mechanism for using the collective forces and to whom will the Collective Peacekeeping Forces commander now be subordinate?

[Pyankov] Planned operations will be coordinated with member-states' defense ministers and will be carried out only with their approval. But in special, emergency cases, when the situation brooks no delay (as in the case of the 12th Border Troops subunit), the commander has been given the right use the entire Collective Peacekeeping Forces arsenal to repel an attack with a subsequent report being made to the heads of state and defense ministers.

Problems? The main one now is to organize a supply and logistic support system.

And finally: Officers and warrant officers of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces will not be breaking their contracts with their defense ministries, they will not be deleted from military units' rosters. And the military uniforms, symbols, and insignia of the state whose military contingents are going to be represented in these forces will stay the same.

Problems Facing New Economic Union Analyzed

PM3009082993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Article by Oleg Falichev and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Will the Economic Union of 'Free Republics' Be Indivisible?"]

[Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, the CIS countries' economic union was instituted on 24 September in Moscow. It can now confidently be stated that among the CIS states the economy has acquired the principal position, with as little dependence as possible on politics. It was not that difficult to forecast the possibility of economic union and rapprochement among the former republics of the USSR. The serious economic crises that had broken out in the states were bound to suggest the rapid disintegration of a unified economic complex that had taken decades to create. The hope that the economy of an individual republic might flourish rapidly or that each of them would get assistance from the West was not borne out either. It was beginning to look more and more like back to square one as a result of the "transformations." But it must be said that it will be very difficult to restore the lost links. The conditions of the CIS states' economies differ and the processes of privatization, decentralization of production, and creation of their own currencies are at different stages... And political "storms" still keep on occurring.

Of course, it is not hard to imagine that if the economic union makes successful progress toward its planned goal of economic stabilization, those who have doubts at the

moment and those who are definitely "breakaway"-minded—the Baltic states, for instance—will perforce become more and more closely tied to it. The interconnections between the countries' economies and the objective mutual interest in one another are too strong.

But it is too early to talk of successes, particularly as Ukraine and Turkmenistan could be detonators to blow up the economic union if difficulties arise—which is a distinct possibility. So the economic union faces plenty of problems in the foreseeable future.

At the 24 September meeting of the CIS heads of state it was decided to form a Collective Peacemaking Force. The Council of Heads of State decided to appoint Colonel General Boris Yevgenyevich Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, to the post of commander of the Collective Peacemaking Force.

You will recall that when Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov left the post of commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, he stated frankly that all his efforts to create the CIS Joint Armed Forces had met with incomprehension and that he did not see any real basis for creating them.

In fact, the Joint Armed Forces commander in chief made more than 70 different decisions and decrees, but none of them was fully implemented. All the indications were that the sovereign republics had drifted further away from one another and had completely forgotten about the emerging contours of military cooperation.

Now the period of uncertainty and vacillation is past. Naturally the question arises: In these circumstances what kind of organ is required to regulate the joint activities of the Commonwealth states in the military sphere? It will perform a coordinating role principally. As for the Collective Peacemaking Force, most likely each participating country will promptly allocate the relevant military formations. The main thing is that, following the creation of the economic union, the necessary economic and legal foundations for this now exist.

Aviation Council To Give Assistance to Georgia

PM2909142393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Civil Aircraft Should Not Fly in Combat Zone"]

[Text] That statement has been addressed to CIS heads of state and government by the Interstate Aviation Committee.

The editorial office was told by Vladimir Kofman, chief of the Interstate Aviation Committee's Scientific and Technical Center, that this was done with a single aim—preventing any future tragedy such as that which occurred in the Sukhumi region.

Georgia is also joining the Council on Aviation and Use of Airspace which has been set up by 12 independent states of the former USSR. Consequently it will be given comprehensive assistance both with processing the information from the Tu-134's flight recorders, and with recruiting the help of specialists. In Vladimir Kofman's opinion, if the flight recorders are found, then specialists will be able accurately to build a picture of the last minutes of the tragedy and understand the level of damage suffered by the aircraft. But this work will be complicated by the fact that finding the recorders and recovering them in the combat zone will be very difficult. The search is also complicated by the features of the environment. We know from past experience, for instance, that when an Il-18 crashed into the Black Sea near Sochi on takeoff in 1972 it proved impossible to locate owing to the rocky sea bed.

[Burbyga] But in 1983 the South Korean aircraft shot down by a Soviet interceptor was located relatively quickly in the vicinity of Moneron Island.

[Kofman] Yes, but practically the entire Pacific Fleet was looking for that aircraft.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Sep

LD3009083593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0550 GMT 30 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 30 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian newspapers focus today on the situation in Moscow and around the parliamentary building as well as on the political situation in the country as a whole.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that the situation in the Russian capital is coming to a head. The newspaper front-pages commentaries on events taking place here after the presidential decree of September 21. The commentaries are subtitled "Search for a way out of the impasse is going on but at the level of declarations for the time being. The West has already started reappraising the Moscow events".

The authors of commentaries note that Boris Yeltsin held in Moscow a meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the country, instead of calling a Federation Council session. The meeting was addressed by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. In the opinion of many independent analysts, "premier remains a person, most acceptable for the opposition for a dialogue" in the present situation.

The premier's task is "to localise the zone of conflict". Quoting the same analysts, the newspaper says that the centre's influence on Russian regions is now limited. "Yeltsin has two opportunities to lure territories to his side.

"Firstly, he should give him economic freedom, which is partly provided for in a package of economic decrees.

Secondly, he should agree to simultaneous elections, despite the tough tone of his latest statements."

As for the situation in and around the parliament building, the newspaper says that every floor in the building was blocked with strongboxes in case of a surprise attack. There are only sandwiches in snack bars, since food supplies are barred by police cordons.

Reporters who visited the place, claim that "legislators who turned to be outside the parliament building, mull over a chance of airlifting food with a balloon".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editor-in-chief Vitaliy Tretyakov notes in a signed article that, taking into account "the wait-and-see attitude" taken by Russian regions, "bloodshedding in and around the parliamentary building may detonate Russia's collapse according to a union model".

Direct talks between the two sides are impossible, he continues. "If we can say that the presidential-government side acts in a close-knit and agreed way, this is not the case with people at the parliament building.

However, Tretyakov adds that "some experts from among Boris Yeltsin's aides claim that he understands the intricate nature of the situation and responsibility of authorities, but events are now developing according to their own scenario: The president cannot control actions of each participant in the present confrontation. There are thousands of them. Physical and psychological fatigue sets in".

The newspaper also carries a statement by the human rights centre "Memorial", expressing "concern over crude violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, which are committed by authorities" after the presidential decree on a gradual constitutional reform in the country.

In turn, the TRUD newspaper, commenting on the events in Russia and a reaction to them in the former Soviet republics, notes that "It is highly improbable that the unanimous approval of Yeltsin's move by the presidents of the former Soviet republics which now became independent states, will substantially influence stability in Russia".

"Most of them experience daily pressure from opposing parliaments," the newspaper adds. "Let us believe that neither the parliament building nor the Kremlin take drastic strong-armed moves, although some people would like to do this."

The latest events in Moscow can prod factory workers in regions to active actions, the newspaper stresses. "They will do this not in favour or against the president's acts but against the protracted power struggle threatening to turn into complete anarchy."

TRUD front-pages opinions of prominent scholars and public figures. Director of the Institute of International Economic and Political Investigations Oleg Bogomolov who is known in Russia and other countries, believes that, despite the fact that parliament's actions provoked exasperation in the recent past, it played a role of counterbalance to the president, "restraining him from rash actions".

The scholar believes that simultaneous elections of the president and parliament will give a chance to reach a compromise and calm down society.

Under the headline "Additional Tension Leads Only to New Casualties. Enough Bloodshedding", the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper front-pages an article on the last two days of confrontation between demonstrators and militia.

"Militiamen, a string of young lads with shields, and their opposite numbers—people under umbrellas," the newspaper writes. "There is a small group of them: even less than one hundred. Nevertheless, they are a spectre of a civil war".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper says that "the actions by the president and the government are a crime against the individual, human rights and freedoms. It describes in detail clashes between protesters and a militia cordon near the Barrikadnaya underground station situated not far from the parliament building.

The newspaper also features an interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov saying that the danger of storming the parliament building is great.

The PRAVDA newspaper prints an address conveyed to the editorial board from the parliament reception office. It expresses an appeal to Russian citizens to help "defenders of the Constitution by creating an outside ring of defence of the parliament building".

The press also gives much space to events in Georgia. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stresses that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze called the latest events "a domestic treason" which was exploited by outside forces.

Shevardnadze said at the same time that the time has not come as yet to call names.

Kozyrev Continues Activities at UN Session

Further on Speech

PM3009090193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Sep 93 p 2

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Peacemaking Is Russian Diplomacy's Priority. Andrey Kozyrev Announces New Initiatives at the United Nations"]

[Text] It was Russia's day at the 48th UN General Assembly Session Tuesday. World community attention focused on the speech Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, who expounded the Russian part of the peace initiatives agreed at the August meeting of the heads of the CIS countries' foreign policy departments in Moscow.

After pointing out that "the past year has shown the whole dramatic nature of the postconfrontational, postcommunist world," the leader of the Russian delegation said: "The events in Yugoslavia, Abkhazia, and Karabakh have shown both a real abyss of barbarity and the chief new threat—aggressive nationalism." According to the minister, outbreaks of violence based on xenophobia even in traditionally prosperous countries attest that nobody is insured against this infection. It is no less dangerous to peace today than it was yesterday, with the threat of nuclear war. The world community has found the strength within itself to "cork up" the nuclear "jinni." The Russian-U.S. START II Treaty was an important guarantee of this. Now we are all faced with a no less formidable challenge—a "new generation" of conflicts and wars caused by ethnic, political, and religious intolerance.

No key has yet been found to resolving the many such conflicts. In particular, Russia will continue urging the opposing sides in Bosnia not to miss the opportunity for a peace settlement and will make its contribution to the operation to implement it under the UN command. Lessons must also be drawn from the UN operations in Somalia and in other hot spots on the planet. This experience accumulated all over the world enables the participants in the New York session to draw up a common, modern peacemaking strategy which will fit the agenda for peace proposed by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

As for Russia, Andrey Kozyrev proposed the following in its name.

First, a clear concept of political leadership by the Security Council should be defined, an efficient military command set up under the UN secretary general's control, and a procedure laid down for involving regional organizations on this basis.

Second, a special Security Council committee on improving peacemaking operations should be established in accordance with Article 29 of the UN Charter. Those states which have accumulated rich experience in this sphere of activity could participate in it.

Third, a UN "reserve force" should be set up, which would be at the disposal of the member states and would be used in peacemaking operations with the consent of their governments in each specific instance following requests from the secretary general.

In Andrey Kozyrev's opinion, conflicts must be settled hand in hand with international protection for their victims. To develop the Geneva conference results, the Russian minister proposed establishing international legal restrictions on the use of the most destructive types of weapons, aviation, and rocket-artillery systems in internal conflicts, stopping the use of mercenaries, and setting up an international tribunal to consider crimes against humanity. In the same category are proposals for a comprehensive examination of refugee problems at the UN level, the establishment in the world body of a post of high commissioner for human rights, and a number of others.

To put it another way, democracy and peacemaking must become the key words defining the world community's strategy on the threshold of the 21st century. The United Nations has an obligation to face up to this challenge.

Meets With Christopher

LD2909175293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Romantsov]

[Text] New York, 28 September—A meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which took place on Wednesday [29 September], showed proximity or concurrence in Russia's and America's approaches to solving all the issues of partnership. Both officials confirmed this after their 59-minute long conversation, which took place at the Russian mission at the United Nations.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Andrey Kozyrev said that he thanked the secretary of state and conveyed gratitude to President Clinton and the U.S. Administration for effectively supporting the measures aimed at strengthening democracy that are now being taken in Moscow. The minister assured him that the government does not intend to use force to solve the internal problem that has arisen.

In turn, Christopher stated that he was given to understand that President Yeltsin intends to find a solution to this problem not only by democratic, but also by peaceful means. He also confirmed the U.S. position taking the view that the people of Russia should solve their problems themselves. He again expressed America's support for the strengthening of democracy and the market reforms in Russia.

The conversation demonstrated that Russia and the United States have no disagreements on the question of

the UN role in maintaining world peace. Both sides believe that this role should be strengthened.

Answering a question, Kozyrev described situation in Georgia as tragic. He appealed to both the Georgian and the Abkhazian sides to stop military actions and resume Sochi negotiations. Events that are taking place there, said Kozyrev, urge us to set up some mechanism within the framework of the UN Security Council that would enable us to learn our lessons from such situations, whether they are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh, Somalia, or Georgia.

Views Yugoslav Sanctions

LD2909131893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1132 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] As our special correspondent reports, after his meeting with the head of the Yugoslavian Foreign Ministry Vladislav Jovanovic, Russian Foreign Minster Andrey Kozyrev, who is attending the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, declared that if events develop positively, Russia is ready to support the removal of international sanctions with respect to the Union [as received] Republic of Yugoslavia.

Regarding the issue whether the parties discussed Kozyrev's idea of protectorate over Sarajevo, set forth by the Russian Foreign Minister at the General Assembly session, Kozyrev answered: "Not yet. In this case protectorate has a purely moral-political meaning."

According to the political adviser of the Russian Foreign Minister, Galina Sidorova, Russia supports Yugoslavia's strive to force the lifting of international sanctions. "As soon as the agreement on settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina is signed, we can start its fulfillment and gradual lifting of the sanctions. That is, the stage-by-stage process of sanctions removal will be accompanied by the implementation of the agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina," indicated Sidorova.

As she said, it is important that the Bosnian Muslims also back this idea.

On Wednesday [29 September] Andrey Kozyrev is scheduled to meet with the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher.

Meets Canadian Counterpart

LD3009063493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2044 GMT 29 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 29 Sep—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held talks with Henry Perrin Beatty, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, in New York today. The ministers exchanged opinions on possible ways of increasing the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping operations and on the interaction between Russia and Canada in their peacemaking activities. They also discussed the situation around the Bosnian settlement.

Amendments to U.S. Aid Bill 'Virtually Relapse' to Past

LD2909230193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The amendments to the draft bill on aid to foreign countries in the 1994 fiscal year adopted by the U.S. Senate following the House of Representatives, link American aid to Russia with a number of conditions. They are "virtually a relapse into the cold war." This was announced in an interview with INTERFAX by the Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, Grigoriy Karasin.

The amendments, some of them recommendations rather than conditions, point to the need to fix a schedule for Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia, from refraining from giving aid to Cuba, also refraining from violating the territorial integrity of the former Soviet republics, and from selling "destabilizing" types of weapons to Iran.

As Karasin said, the amendments concern primarily Russia's relations with third countries. "In our view, such practice of linkages runs counter to the spirit of partnership between Russia and the U.S., which has already proved its effectiveness," Karasin pointed out.

According to him, Moscow "highly appreciates the consistent policy of support for Russia, for the political course of Russia's President and for Russian reforms, followed by the U.S. administration."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said he hopes that Russian concerns will be taken into account in the process of finalizing the bill.

Commentary Views U.S. Easing of Trade Restrictions

LD3009024493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Vladyslav Kozyakov commentary]

[Excerpts] The interdepartmental coordinating committee for the promotion of trade has sent a new national export strategy to the White House for approval. It includes sweeping liberalization of controls restricting the sale of American computers and other high tech products. Commentary by Vladyslav Kozyakov: [passage omitted]

In what way will the new export strategy influence normalization of U.S trade with Russia and other former Soviet republics? According to THE WALL STREET

JOURNAL it will have an immediate effect only in trade with Washington's West European and other allies. As for the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Third World countries, here the action of the new American export strategy promises not to be as fast, but the step is likely to pave the way for further easing of export controls. In other words, again delays, again vagueness as to when the Russian-American relations in the important trade sphere will at last be fully normalized.

After the Vancouver summit and Washington's repeated pledges it seemed plainly clear that trade discrimination on the part of the United States had become obsolete, yet no quick and full rigged measures have been taken so far. The U.S. Congress is yet to cancel more than 50 acts impeding trade with Russia and the COCOM has limited itself to just discussing a proposed readjustment and easing of sales restrictions. One can see it has proved far easier for the West to place trade barriers than remove them and pass over to civilized economic relations.

U.S. Aid to Hospital Does Little To Help 'General Ruin'

PM2909135193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 4

[Valentina Proskurina report: "The 'Morozovka' Has Been Lucky, or a Glimmer of Light Amid General Gloom"]

[Text] In a ceremonial atmosphere at Moscow's No. 1 Morozovskaya Children's Hospital yesterday U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and U.S. Army Major General Michael Scotti handed over humanitarian aid: medical equipment, x-ray apparatus, and operating tables.

The Morozovskaya Children's Hospital is rightly considered one of the best not only in Moscow but also in the whole of Russia. In December it will be 90 years old. The new modern medical equipment—the gift of U.S. military medics—will help children's physicians to raise the treatment of children to a still higher level. One can only rejoice for the physicians, the parents, and the children who will be treated here.

How we would like to address words of gratitude also to our government for its concern for sick children. But against the background of general ruin in our health care this festival was merely a glimmer of light amid general gloom. We know how poor children's hospitals are almost throughout Russia: There is a shortage of medical supplies and elementary instruments, roofs leak, and maternity homes lack heating and food. Infant mortality and sickness are growing. On the whole, taking inflation into account, the budget covers just one-fourth of the necessary expenditure. Now the government is threatening to reduce even this. Who then will help ALL Russian children?

State Department Concern Over Abkhazia Criticized

PM3009091393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 93 p 3

["Observer's Comments" by Nikolay Kozhanov: "State Department Not Pleased..."]

[Text] Events in a country an extremely long way from U.S. shores have suddenly become the U.S. State Department's pressing concern. "The U.S. Administration," its statement says, "resolutely supports the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and does not acknowledge the Abkhazian gains secured by force of arms."

The statement clearly contains a note of menace, although neither Abkhazia nor Georgia as a whole seem to have hitherto been part of the sphere of operation of the Monroe Doctrine or other zones of U.S. security. Isn't it strange that for some reason the esteemed State Department was not worried by the violation of either Yugoslavia's integrity or the breakup of the USSR. Yet here... Moreover, as far as one can judge, no outsider has so far encroached on Georgia's territorial integrity. It seems that if anything poses a very serious threat to its integrity, it is the brutal internal sedition and the fight between the Shevardnadze and Gamsakhurdia clans, who are prepared to split the country down the Suramskiy Khrebet mountain range into Mengrelia and Kartli-Kakhetia.

But that is not the issue for the U.S. overseers of world order—it is a question of certain "Abkhazian gains." The U.S. human rights zealots have for some reason failed to notice the punitive legions of national chauvinists who seized power in Tbilisi at the stroke of a pen and then by gross violence tried to deprive the people of South Ossetia of autonomy, or the fact that they then deceitfully invaded Abkhazia and caused bloodshed in its cities and rural areas. But now that the masters of Abkhazia have decided to evict the uninvited guests from their capital, the Americans have begun to sound the alarm. Any minute now there will be U.S. soldiers in "blue helmets" coming here.

It is perhaps better to leave in peace the two fraternal peoples who have for years lived together—and well at that—as one family. They will reach agreement somehow without the U.S. State Department.

Chief Negotiator Refutes Shevardnadze Allegations

LD2909213293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The anti-Russian statements by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze are not conducive to a normal

development of bilateral relations, the chief Russian negotiator at the talks with Georgia Felix Kovalev told INTERFAX.

He qualified as "absolutely ungrounded and proofless" Shevardnadze's claims that "the plan for capturing Sukhumi by Abkhazian units had been worked out in a Russian military headquarters." "The Abkhazians took advantage of the worsened political situation inside Georgia, indeed, and resorted to open cheating and violation of the Sochi agreement, but the Russian side has nothing to do with this," Kovalev said.

According to him, Georgia repeatedly turned down Russia's proposals concerning limited use of its armed forces to stabilize the situation in the area of Sukhumi. "Russia made these proposals despite the fact that, contrary to Georgia's allegations, it was not a guarantor of the Sochi agreement," the diplomat explained.

A share of responsibility for developments in the conflict area lies also on the UN, he noted. "Unfortunately, the world community failed to resolve the issue of sending its peace-keeping forces to the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, or at least giving an appropriate status to the Russian battalion stationed in the region," Kovalev said.

According to him, under the circumstances it is hardly possible to revert to the Sochi agreement. "Having suffered defeat, the Georgian side feels cheated. As for the Abkhazians, they proclaimed their willingness to observe the agreement, while, judging by reports, going on with large-scale military operations beyond Sukhumi," said INTERFAX's interviewee.

He hopes that the anti-Russian statements by the Georgian leaders will have no impact on the situation of Russian-speakers living locally. "If some unlawful measures are taken toward Russian-speakers in Georgia after all, Russia will not remain indifferent to this," he concluded.

Shakhray Sees Failure in Role of Georgian Truce Guarantor

LD2909184193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the opinion of Sergey Shakhray, which was expressed at a news conference today, Russia has undoubtedly failed in its role as a guarantor of a truce in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. However, Shakhray believes, despite Georgia's resentment toward Russia, peace talks are the only way to reach a solution to the question.

The third humanitarian rescue operation by Black Sea Fleet vessels to bring refugees and wounded out of Sukhumi was completed this morning. Some 2,900 persons were brought to Poti. About 14,000 people in all have been brought to the security zone in three days.

'Catastrophic' Consequences to Abkhazian War Predicted

MK2909103293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Vakhtang Dzhanashiya commentary under "Opinion" rubric: "What Are Russia's Guarantees Worth? Preliminary Results of the War in Abkhazia"]

[Text] The consequences of Sukhumi's passing to the control of the "Gudauta" part of the Supreme Soviet of the Abkhaz ASSR (de jure the name has stayed intact) will continue to be a very serious factor in world politics for decades to come.

The inevitable shock of defeat will become primarily a test of the Georgian state's durability. Which will prevail—the already overwhelming disintegration inertia or the consolidating force of the nationwide tragedy—will become clear in the next few weeks or maybe even days. Will Eduard Shevardnadze remain in power or will the forces in the Russian leadership supporting Vladislav Ardzinba complete the combination involving yet another early change of ruling authority in Tbilisi, which is not so difficult under the present conditions? The sole serious alternative to Shevardnadze at the post of head of what may remain of the Georgian state is the present leader of the Adzhar autonomy, Aslan Abashidze—amenable to Moscow, undoubtedly acceptable to Gudauta, and tolerable to the devastated and ruined republic, according to the principle that among the blind, the one-eyed is king. Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who returned to Gudauta a few days ago, can hardly be taken seriously, although attempts to "resurrect" him will surely lead to greater bloodshed and instability.

In any event, the war will continue—either as a guerrilla war, or it will turn into an endless series of terrorist acts on the part of small, fragmented groups uncontrolled by Tbilisi (however, which of the armed groups really are controlled by it?) This will provide some justification for the arrival in large numbers of Russian military units and resettlers from among retired military servicemen, inevitable in any case (the migration program was made public last January in DEN, a paper highly popular with the "Gudauta people").

The war has drastically changed the demographic situation in Abkhazia. The former correlation of ethnic communities—17 percent Abkhaz, 48 percent Georgians, 16 percent Armenians, and 15 percent Russians and "others"—has changed irreversibly. The Russians, for the most party city dwellers who worked at Sukhumi factories and plants and in Tkvarcheli mines that have now been destroyed by bombing, have simply nowhere to earn their living. Greeks and Jews have emigrated to their historical motherlands in large numbers. The fear of becoming scapegoats for activity by leaders of the Armenian community, who have actively contributed to the conflict turned into war, stimulated a mass emigration of Armenians. As a result, the most multiethnic part

of Georgia has in fact become biethnic. The confrontation between the Abkhaz community, which, according to expert estimates, has grown following emigration from the northern Caucasus to 25-27 percent, and the Georgian community, which has become an absolute majority (approximately 65 percent of its population), will inevitably acquire a permanent character. Unless, of course, Ardzinba's supporters, with the tacit approval of their sponsors, complete the ethnic cleansing of the autonomy of the Georgian population, which has already gotten under way.

Abkhazia's economy has been completely ruined. Whereas peace and capital investments will suffice for restoring the agricultural sector, the resorts—which used to generate the largest part of Abkhaz budget revenues—will continue to be empty for many years to come. Who in his right senses will want to "vacation" in a permanently explosive region?

A threat was lurking before the leaders of the Abkhaz "party of war"—the threat of responsibility for the intransigence which led to the escalation of bloodshed, which could have been stopped more than a year ago after the first Moscow agreement of 3 September 1992, which also led to the total devastation of the autonomy's economy, the destruction of its capital, and the irreversible deterioration in Abkhaz-Georgian relations. This intransigence was understandable and forgivable when the Kitovani-Sigua-Chkheidze clan possessed sufficient power in Georgia. With their removal from power, however, and the consistent struggle by Shevardnadze's supporters in Tbilisi and responsible politicians in Gudauta for a diplomatic settlement of the armed conflict, the continuation of hostilities was reduced to the sole goal—political—and in the Caucasian context, also physical self-preservation of the extremists.

Russia has found itself in an extremely delicate situation. Moscow was literally forcing its services as a mediator and guarantor of an Abkhaz-Georgian settlement: It was necessary to preserve and consolidate its presence in a strategically important region and to preserve the absolutely dependent Vladislav Ardzinba, who knew a great deal. For a second time in September 1992 the Russian Army contributed to the routing of Georgia, which had disarmed itself under the provisions of agreements concluded against Russia's state guarantees (!). First Gagra fell and now Sukhumi. Ardzinba and his associates have kept their official posts. As a result, many are sure to learn a lesson about the reliability of Russian guarantees and they will remember it for a long time.

The second important lesson is the unprincipled stand by some moralizing human rights advocates and mass media outlets in Russia. It is enough to recall the massive and—as it is clear now—carefully orchestrated outrage over the shooting of an Abkhaz helicopter and the total silence following the loss of three (!) Georgian passenger planes. Among those who died were also our journalist colleagues!

Perhaps the most important result of what has happened has been a world-wide demonstration by the Russian Army that it is not controlled by its own president. Russian generals began to pursue their own foreign policy, the way they understood it. The catastrophic consequences of this state of things can be disastrous not only to Russia.

Yeltsin Receives Romanian Prime Minister

LD2909120393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1130 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin today received in the Kremlin Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu. The Romanian prime minister has been in Moscow on a special visit since 27 September and has already had talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Opening the meeting, Boris Yeltsin said relations are developing more or less satisfactorily. The Russian president also pointed out that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin has informed the president in detail of the progress of the talks with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

Vacaroiu Holds News Conference

LD2909181393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Remarks by Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu at a news conference held at the press center of the Foreign Ministry in Moscow on 29 September—recorded; in Romanian with superimposed Russian translation

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to say a few words about the main results of the visit to the Russian Federation. Very good results have been attained by us in these three days, during the meeting that I had with President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, during the talks with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and with Deputy Prime Minister Gaydar, Mr. Volskiy, president of the union of Russian entrepreneurs and prime minister of the Republic of Bashkortostan Koptsov. They revealed the desire to give new impetus to the development of relations between Romania and the Russian Federation. There is a whole range of complicated problems, which are first and foremost economic.

During our visit five documents of special importance were signed. In the course of our meetings, we dealt with a series of issues which are on the agenda and which have not been resolved in our relations. I have in mind the issue of setting up joint enterprises in the sphere of engineering, in the sphere of oil extraction, and in the sphere of consumer goods production. Additionally, an important fact is that specific decisions have been taken which are expected to be specifically implemented. Naturally, besides trade and economic relations, issues of direct bilateral relations were touched upon. I have in

mind the search for mutually acceptable ways to complete drawing up of the main agreements between our countries. And the main thing during this visit was the fact that both parties demonstrated a high degree of mutual understanding.

During the meeting with President Yeltsin, I also handed over a personal message and the warmest wishes from Romanian President Mr. Ion Iliescu and I also expressed our support for the further development of democratic processes in Russia. I also renewed the invitation from Romanian President Iliescu to Russian Federation President Yeltsin to visit Romania, possibly for a shorter time.

Hungarian Defense Minister Begins Visit

LD2909193093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[Text] Budapest, 29 Sep—Lajos Fur, the Hungarian defense minister, begins an official three-day visit to Russia today. The visit will make possible the discussion on questions of Hungarian-Russian military ties and the problems of security policy, the minister told journalists prior to his departure for Russia. In Moscow, it will be possible to exchange views with the Russian side on practical issues which directly affect the Hungarian Army's defensive capability.

Eighty percent of all equipment with which the Hungarian Army is presently armed was produced in the former Soviet Union and that is why deliveries of spare parts for these arms are a vital necessity for us, emphasized Fur.

The change of regime in Hungary and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact organ.zation put an end to a situation in which Hungarian officers trained exclusively in the Soviet Union. The situation has now changed and more and more Hungarian officers get their professional training in Western Europe and North America, the minister said. Only two Hungarian officers are currently studying at the military academy of the Russian General Staff. It is, of course, true that such a small number of students in the Russian academy can be explained also by the current high costs of studies and having to pay for everything in dollars. Nonetheless, the future goal should be that up to 30 Hungarian officers should train in Russia, because military studies in the Russian Federation continue to be at what is traditionally high professional level, said the Hungarian defense minister in conclusion.

Meets With Grachev

LD2909162293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By Andrey Naryshkin, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 September—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, has called the political crisis in Russia a problem that is "serious but resolvable." At a meeting with his Hungarian counterpart, Lajos Fur, held today, he noted that the actions of the most radical supporters of the Supreme Soviet, disbanded by the Russian president, might lead to very serious consequences.

The minister noted that the former deputies "acquired so-called helpers who are engaged in very dangerous activities. A self-styled Russian Union has emerged, advocating terrorism against certain leaders. Individuals emerge who, in exchange for money, provoke the people into staging unsanctioned rallies and seeking conflict with representatives of local authorities, especially with the militia. Personally, as a military man, I regard this as a long-term preparatory action to start a large-scale and bloody conflict. It is still distant, but the pre-conditions already exist," emphasized Pavel Grachev. The internal affairs bodies, the Procuracy, and other organizations responsible for public order in Moscow must put a halt to these actions.

In these conditions, the military command ensures a clear-cut command of the troops and "never before has the Army obeyed so strictly and precisely" the orders of the defense minister, said Army General Pavel Grachev. He emphasized that at collegium meetings held at various levels in the Army and Navy recently, the actions of the Russian president and Government had met with complete support.

In turn, Lajos Fur noted that his visit to Moscow at this moment in time reflected the position of the Hungarian Government, which "supports the Russian leadership in all its actions."

In the course of a conversation that lasted an hour, the sides examined a number of issues connected with the implementation of last year's treaty on bilateral cooperation in the military field. Lajos Fur expressed gratitude to the Russian leadership for the precise fulfillment of obligations to deliver MiG-29 fighters, spare parts, and equipment to Hungary and also for the training given to pilots from Hungary at Russian Air Force establishments. The possibility that the testing grounds of the Russian Federation Armed Forces might be used for the purposes of the Hungarian Army was also discussed, along with a possible sale of licenses to produce Russian arms and equipment and other aspects of military and technical cooperation.

Further on Talks

LD2909210093 Budapest MTI in English 2014 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, September 29 (MTI)—In Russia's crisis, Hungary resolutely supports democratic forces hallmarked by the name of President Boris Yeltsin, Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Fur told Hungarian journalists in Moscow after talks with his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev on Wednesday.

His current visit, he said, was also a sign of the Hungarian Government's support.

At the talks, Grachev outlined Russia's internal crisis in detail, saying it was a serious problem but possible to solve.

Fur said another aim of his visit to Moscow was to discuss military ties. He mentioned the visit by President Yeltsin to Budapest last year and the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two defence ministries at that time, which signalled the start to developing military ties in a new spirit.

At the present talks, Fur and Grachev discussed the military cooperation of the past year and possibilities of expanding it.

Grachev stressed the importance of cooperation in military technology. Fur noted that 80 per cent of Hungarian army military equipment was of Soviet or Russian origin.

Hungary seeks to revive graduate training courses for Hungarian officers in Russia.

On Thursday, Fur will visit Hungarian pilots who are being trained to fly MiG-29 fighter planes in Krasnodar. Russia was to deliver 28 of these fighters to Hungary by the end of October, Fur said.

Russia is giving the planes, worth USD 800 million, to Hungary to pay half of the former Soviet Union's debts to Hungary.

The two ministers did not have time today to talk on Hungary's possible NATO membership or other security policy issues. However, Fur said, that during his visit which ends Friday, he hoped to discuss these issues with his hosts.

PRAVDA Interviews UK's Rifkind on Recent Visit

PM3009084593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 7

[Interview with British Secretary of Defense Malcolm Rifkind by Pavel Bogomolov in London; date not given: "'...We Would So Much Like To See Russia Stable,' Says British Minister on Return from Moscow. Personality Cult Unacceptable Under Any Circumstances. Idea That Rutskoy Is Allegedly Thinking of Enslaving the Baltic or East Europe Again is Propaganda Myth. Russian Military Opposes Use of Army for Political Purposes. Nonproliferation Treaty Awaits Ukraine's Signature"]

[Text] London—The highest-ranking Western politician to visit the Russian Federation capital in the past few days was British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. His assessment of the current situation in Moscow is being heeded not just on the Thames. Mr. Rifkind shared with PRAVDA's correspondent his views on this and on the development of bilateral relations. We are publishing the conversation:

[Bogomolov] From what standpoint, Mr. Minister, do you approach the analysis of all that is currently happening in Russia?

[Rifkind] I prefer to proceed on the basis of the following substantive fact—we are living at a special time, when the changes in your country are having and will continue to have an enormous influence on the entire world. As for the last few months in particular, during this period things in Russia had clearly been moving toward deadlock—a conflict between the two branches of power. My experience in Moscow was that Russian citizens are very much hoping for a peaceful resolution to this dispute. Your countrymen are dreaming of finally ensuring the stability which we also wish for them in every possible way. Those, indeed, will be our criteria for assessing the further course of events.

[Bogomolov] Where, in your view, will Russia's destiny be decided this time—in Moscow or in the provinces, in the vast expanses of our Eurasian power?

[Rifkind] What struck me as substantive in President B. Yeltsin's first TV appearance last week was his appeal to all Russian citizens wherever they might be to determine their country's future for themselves at the polling places. Whereas previously key state problems were decided in secret at sessions of the then Politburo—and often without any preliminary consultations with the people—the new Russia can sketch the outlines of its own future by means of a general election. And although there are currently a lot of arguments about Yeltsin's step with regard to parliament, I find it gratifying that for the first time in Russian history there is a chance to overcome a political crisis on such a serious scale through the free expression of the will of citizens.

[Bogomolov] On the first day of the events you gave an interview in Moscow to the BBC, in which you were very cautious about the situation in the city, not siding with anyone but, rather, demonstrating a general human interest in seeing Russia become truly democratic. You also expressed a general desire for nonintervention by the military in the current crisis. But your later TV interviews in Moscow were taken as being one-sidedly pro-Yeltsin. Or was that just my impression?

[Rifkind] I am not sure you are right... I would need to check the texts... It was just that my first conversation with the BBC correspondent was, as it were, a snap reaction to a superficial, hurried translation of the Russian Federation president's speech. Commenting on the document later—after carefully analyzing the details—was a different matter. And those details struck me as positive and more in favor of the Kremlin.

[Bogomolov] Presumably you received no urgent guidance from the head of your cabinet to side with one of the opposing camps?

[Rifkind] No. First I gave my personal opinion, then later—and I make no secret of this—I was delighted to find that my views coincided with those of John Major, who sent a message of friendship to the Kremlin from Malaysia.

[Bogomolov] Nonetheless, Mr. Minister, isn't it wiser and more correct for the West to avoid giving 100-percent support to any individual?

[Rifkind] Quite so! All the more so as you must solve the problems in the Russian Federation yourselves rather than relying on the outside world, whatever its sympathies. At the same time, it would be unrealistic to believe that we would refrain from expressing our views on events of such enormous importance and in such a great world power as Russia, which has a nuclear potential. After all, if such a break were to occur here in Britain or, say, the United States, Moscow would probably want to openly express its concern or, conversely, its enthusiasm... But, essentially, I would reiterate that you are absolutely right. If you take, for instance, the United Kingdom's interests in East Europe, the fate of any one individual has no bearing on them—they will depend purely on the fundamental policy directions of a government and the extent to which it is democratic. So we should be talking not about some kind of personality cult but of broader categories, of the platforms espoused by certain parties or movements.

[Bogomolov] Last Sunday was celebrated by the Russian executive authorities to the victorious sound of an orchestra in Red Square. Do you believe the statements coming out of the presidential camp to the effect that it is essentially all over?

[Rifkind] You know, I would prefer not to answer that. I don't want to make any predictions. It is better if the Russians do that themselves...

[Bogomolov] The opponents of the Russian parliament are spreading rumors to the effect that, were Rutskoy to win, he would in time issue an order for the Baltic countries or East Europe to be reoccupied. Do you take those claims seriously?

[Rifkind] No, that is impossible, it is not feasible. No government in Moscow would be either willing or able to do so—particularly since we are talking about sovereign states, and any violation of their territorial integrity would have the most serious consequences. Moreover, there are hardly any Russian troops left in the regions you have mentioned. And Rutskoy and his colleagues would not nurture such revanchist plans—of that I am convinced.

[Bogomolov] Readers often express surprise about how the Kremlin can assure everyone that the officer corps is increasingly loyal to the government, when tens of thousands of officers have in the past few years lost roofs over their heads, proper levels of pay, and their considerable social status. Allow me to ask you, Mr. Minister, what your views are of the Russian servicemen with whom you met in Moscow.

[Rifkind] To my mind, virtually every Russian officer is now pondering whether his current adversity has been brought about by the actual reform process or by the protracted consequences of the stagnation of the former regime. On the whole, I would say this: In their conversations with me Russian Federation servicemen advocated things that other countries' servicemen value highly too—stability and certainty. They do not want the Army to be used for somebody's political purposes. They do not want the Armed Forces to follow the will of certain circles or groupings. They are striving to serve the nation as a whole.

[Bogomolov] What tasks did you set yourselves during the visit and to what extent did you succeed in realizing them?

[Rifkind] I would start by saying that over the past two years contacts between the British and Russian defense departments have expanded rapidly—as they have between our countries' servicemen. And that is gratifying. Politicians and diplomats in East and West had contacts with each other even during the Cold War, whereas the military almost never did. But now, fortunately, many former barriers have been surmounted. All these improvements were recorded in the memorandum which General Pavel Grachev and I signed during President B. Yeltsin's visit to Britain. Now, developing that document, we concluded in Moscow a protocol on the retraining of servicemen discharged to the reserve. This relates to specific help which will be given to our Russian colleagues in organizing a system to find employment for former officers. The British Isles have built up a great deal of experience in this area. In the course of cuts to our military budget and Armed Forces we have encountered problems just as difficult as Russia has—albeit on a smaller scale.

[Bogomolov] Mr. Minister, you have always prudently opposed any hasty expansion of the NATO alliance through the admission of certain East European states. You have often talked about Russia's legitimate interests and concerns in this respect. But now President Yeltsin has stated in Warsaw that Moscow is not at all opposed to the admission of Poland or other countries of the region into NATO. So from what position should this delicate matter be approached today?

[Rifkind] We welcome the statement to which you refer in the sense that the Kremlin has reaffirmed each country's inalienable right to decide which military-political alliance it should join. At an appropriate time NATO may decide to increase the number of alliance members. But this should be preceded by the submission and examination of the relevant formal applications. These have not yet been forthcoming, so the problem has not been discussed in specific terms. Incidentally, it would be desirable to discuss it in the following light—on the

basis of the extent to which the admission of a certain state would promote the strengthening of security throughout Europe. In other words, we need to act to ensure that the former interbloc contradictions which disappeared relatively recently are not replaced by new strife along the self-defeating lines that "you've become a NATO member, but we haven't." Incidentally, we would like to know the opinion of the East Europeans themselves and of Russia on this matter.

[Bogomolov] In London you sometimes get the impression that the West is already prepared to grant the Kremlin certain transnational police functions—but only in Central Asia rather than throughout the territory of the former Union. Is it not the case that Russia is being deliberately pushed toward the unpredictable East, while simultaneously being refused the right to make itself secure to the West of the Urals? In the Caucasus, for instance?

[Rifkind] Personally, I see this problem in a somewhat different light. Nobody, including Russia, should have permanent police powers. A new version of the "Monroe Doctrine" (Washington's geopolitical concept whereby the United States arrogated to itself the sole right to intervene in the internal affairs of its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere—Ed.) is not welcome anywhere now. At the same time, there is no reason why Russia or other states should not set up peacekeeping forces at the request of their neighbors and provided that such actions win the approval of the international community in the shape of the United Nations or the CSCE. As for the differences between Europe and Asia that you have mentioned in this context, I do not think they should be permitted. The same universal principles should be applied to each country.

[Bogomolov] Along with Russia you were also able to visit Ukraine in September...

[Rifkind] ...Yes, and, figuratively speaking, I did not tire of applauding the fact that its secession from the former Union had happened peacefully and without bloodshed. Look at the death throes of the former Yugoslavia and you will realize what I mean. At the same time, we all realize that the military-political tension between Kiev and Moscow is still very great. Which ways of overcoming it would the West prefer? We would like to see ratification on the Dnieper of all existing international-law documents on weapons of mass destruction. We would like Ukraine, as a peace-loving state free of these arsenals, to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty. Britain would prefer to see Russians and Ukrainians as good neighbors... As for the business side of my visit to Kiev, I signed a memorandum of cooperation in the defense sphere with Defense Minister General Morozov.

[Bogomolov] In conclusion, Mr. Minister, could you say a few words about the future of and prospects for the development of multifaceted Russo-British relations? Would they—as was the case in the past—benefit or suffer if there were some political changes in either of our countries? Or should the Moscow-London dialogue remain in any event some kind of permanent major dimension—a kind of constant?

[Rifkind] You will recall that a great British thinker and statesman once said that the United Kingdom has no permanent friends nor permanent enemies, only permanent interests. Our interest in Russia is, of course, to see stability and freedom—since that will serve to strengthen stability and freedom throughout Europe. The traditions of friendship between London and Moscow are very rich. Incidentally, we were more often friends than enemies over the past decades. And during World War II we were even allies in the common fight against fascism. But then, regrettably, there was the Cold War. Now, finally, the current period has arrived and it is hard to detect any problems on the map which we would view totally differently. But differences are such a spontaneous thing that they could emerge in the future. The advantage is just that henceforth we can overcome them as partners rather than on the battlefield.

Kurils Said Not Key Issue of Yeltsin Japan Visit

LD2909164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 29 September—As the legal successor of the former Soviet Union, Russia should respect all international documents, including the problem of the four islands of the Kuril ridge, Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, said today.

"As for the issue of whether or not to give the islands, the government has a clear position in this respect," he said replying to questions during a meeting with lecturers and students at the Moscow Institute of International Relations. According to Sergey Filatov, the territorial problem "will not be the main" one during the forthcoming visit by Boris Yeltsin to Japan. "It cannot be fully discussed at present since the time is not right and since this is not the most important thing," he added. "We should not begin with giving away some of our territories."

He spoke in favor of working together with the Japanese side in the economic field and of opening new joint ventures. "It seems to me it is not the land that matters but what surrounds that land," Sergey Filatov said.

'No Radical Progress' Expected

PM2909124193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Observer Aleksandr Golts report: "Will the Russian Federation President Still Visit Japan?"]

[Text] As a rule, announcements about agreements over dates for a visit by the head of state to a foreign power are classed purely as routine news. In this case, however, the agreement that Boris Yeltsin's trip to Tokyo will

begin 12 October came as little short of a diplomatic bombshell. It is no secret that the question of the Russian president's visit to the Land of the Rising Sun (a visit which has already been postponed) has attracted such a mass of speculation and conjecture that it has become a political issue. Now the very fact that this trip will take place at all, irrespective of its results, is something which diplomatic departments will be able to add to its credits with a sigh of relief.

To judge from the intensive preparations, the sides have no intention of restricting themselves to protocol measures. In a special statement, Japan's Prime Minister Hosokawa stresses that he is hoping for weighty talks which will allow for a new page in Japanese-Russia relations to be turned.

Of course, the place at the talks which will be accorded to the problem of the territorial allegiance of the four South Kuril islands, which have for many years been a bone of contention in relations between Moscow and Tokyo, is of interest to everybody.

In my view, there will be no radical progress here. However, the new bosses recently installed in Tokyo's government offices are not bound by obligations to arrive, come what may, at a decision on the "territorial question" on Japan's terms. Nor do they need to reinforce their authority nowadays in the country by constantly harping on this theme.

On the other hand, it is no secret that the question of the South Kurils has long been exploited by the opposition in Russia in its struggle with Boris Yeltsin. Any step, even a step toward a rational compromise, is instantly interpreted as an unjustified concession. And it is precisely because of this that last year's visit to Tokyo was postponed. Since then, the situation in Russia has become no less tense. And the fact that the Russian Federation president has decided to visit Japan at this precise moment testifies unequivocally to the respect in which that country is held. And it will, I hope, help to tone down the impression given by the somewhat clumsy statements of Russia's ranking and not so high-ranking officials.

So it seems to me that the territorial problem will be broached merely in order to underscore the sides' intentions to resolve it at some future date on the basis of legality and justice. Which, indeed, accords with the interests of both countries.

Harm of PRC 'Economic Siege' in Far East Viewed

PM2909133193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Andrey Gavrilenko report: "Russia Risks Becoming an Economic Adjunct of China. The Chinese Are Already Today Doing Everything Possible To Bring This About"]

[Text] Vladivostok— As of today China has signed 613 contracts for the construction of housing and industrial facilities in various CIS countries, first and foremost in Russia. It has provided labor services worth a total of $1.40 billion. Over 30,000 Chinese workers have been sent into Russia and other Commonwealth countries under labor agreements. Moreover, China has formed in CIS countries 93 joint enterprises with a combined incorporation capital of $100 million, of which 43.7 percent belongs to the PRC.

And as for how many Chinese are living in Russia today, no one knows. Not for nothing do they call Vladivostok the most Chinese city of the Maritime region.

The Chinese seek to come into Russia by any and every means. You can find Chinese goods on the markets and in commercial stores—everything from poor quality feather beds and leather jackets to chewing gum or alcohol with a huge fuel oil and aldehyde content. But the economic siege of the Maritime area is reinforced by hundreds of PRC citizens illegally crossing the border. Chinese women are even giving birth on our territory in order to obtain Russian citizenship.

Moreover, the Chinese coming to Russia are by no means a peaceful people. Many of them are hiding in our country from liability for crimes committed in their homeland. They are held responsible for the serious vandalism [znachitelnyy pogrom] in the Vladivostok "Retro" cafe in June, and in August for the violent attack on a food store in a closed military garrison. Last year the Chinese perpetrated 12 crimes against their own compatriots. "The Chinese do not register with the rayon internal affairs department and do not stay in hotels," A. Kurenkov, a senior aide to the Maritime Kray public prosecutor said. "They settle in private houses, and migrate endlessly through the kray. Many of them are on Russian Federation territory on expired visas. In a number of regions of the kray there is a shortage of competent specialists and translators. Because of this only 35.5 percent of crimes committed by Chinese are uncovered."

The PRC, which thanks to the efforts of the IMF has become the third most economically developed state [as published], is invading Russia's economic sphere. The work of the Chinese in impoverished Russia is paid for in decommissioned ships, hardware, and equipment. Chinese workers are filling up Russian enterprises and leading to the growth of unemployment in Russia. Meanwhile, the Chinese, as a result of the demarcation of the border, are grabbing our lands, illegally detaining Russian vessels, and exploiting our territory in their own interests.

Presidential Council Member Assesses Peacekeeping Role

PM3009100193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Presidential Council Member Emil Pain: "Can Russia Play Peacemaker?"]

[Text] September's meeting of CIS heads of state was marked not just by the signing of an agreement on

economic union, but also by a decision to set up CIS coalition peacekeeping forces.

The very need for peacekeeping forces to take part in regulating armed conflicts does not, in my view, give rise to doubt insofar as this often actively helps to save thousands of lives. In fact this task is particularly relevant on the territory of the former USSR as the death count in regional and ethnopolitical conflicts here has risen sharply since the withdrawal from a number of republics of former Soviet Army troops: In 1991, fewer than 800 people died in such conflicts on USSR territory, while in 1992 at least 50,000 perished in Tajikistan alone.

It is clear that Russia's role in future joint armed forces operations will, as before, be decisive. However, recent political events in neighboring states cast doubt over the real chance of Russia's fulfilling the role of peacemaker in conflict zones on former USSR territory.

So it is that, having signed the Sochi agreement on terminating the war in Abkhazia in July, Russia proclaimed itself guarantor of compliance with the armistice in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict before the world, but in practice was unable either to avert or stop the 16 September Abkhaz offensive against Sukhumi.

Prior to the Abkhaz events, the actions of Russian forces in the Tajik and a number of other conflict zones were severely criticized in the press. While recognizing the justice of these complaints, I do not, nevertheless, share the deep-seated conviction of many in the West that the action (or inaction) of Russia's forces in the conflict zones constitutes nothing other than a "covert form of imperialist policy" on the part of the Russian Government. In my view, the Russian leadership does not even have as yet a unified plan of action in zones of ethnopolitical and regional conflict. Until recently, Russia's actual policy in neighboring foreign states was shaped under the influence of the extremely acute confrontation between two political blocs: the moderate reformist element led by Yeltsin, and the national-imperial forces, which by the beginning of 1992 had obtained a solid majority in the higher legislative organs of power, as well as being represented in some sectors of the executive (in the vice-president's apparatus, and partly in the Army.)

So it is that 3 September 1992 Yeltsin and Shevardnadze, along with representatives of Abkhazia, signed an agreement on an armistice in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, only for the Russian Parliament to adopt a decision on Abkhazia 25 September canceling out the agreements reached and literally nudging the Abkhaz side toward breaching them. And barely was the ink dry on the agreement signed by Yeltsin and Kravchuk to divide up the Black Sea Fleet in the summer of 1993 than the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a decree diametrically opposed to it in terms of content, and to all intents and purposes placing the two largest powers on the territory of the former USSR on the brink of war.

Now, following the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and the Congress, the influence of these forces over Russian policy in neighboring foreign states will, of course, wane. However, it would be erroneous to reduce the problems of Russia's military presence in the conflict zones merely to "intrigues" on the part of the former parliament and to the ill-fated war between the two branches of power. These problems are engendered to no less an extent by vicious confrontation within the executive itself.

How can Russian peacekeeping forces act in a coordinated manner if there are perceptible inconsistencies in the various departments' approaches to, say, the Abkhaz or Tajik conflict? Thus it is that 17 September the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hot on the heels of the UN Security Council, acknowledged the actions of the Abkhaz side as a unilateral violation of the Sochi agreement and threatened it with sanctions. That very same day, Russia's defense minister appraised the nature of the violations of the Sochi agreement quite differently and suggested applying sanctions against both sides simultaneously, which, given the continuing offensive by the Gudauta grouping, actually signifies support for the aggressive side.

In the latest attack on Sukhumi by the Abkhaz side, armored personnel carriers and artillery which, by agreement, were deposited in noncombat condition at Russian units stationed in Abkhazia, were used. The is impossible that this hardware could make a reappearance on the Abkhaz side without the knowledge of the Russian military command.

Again, it will be some time before Russia resolves its domestic political problems (at the very least, a further heightening of the political battle can be confidently predicted in the runup to the elections), but will it be possible during this period to avoid involving Russia's troops in conflicts on neighboring states' territory?

"No"—This is how participants in the recent international seminar on ethnopolitical conflicts which took place in Washington replied. Eminent experts from various countries of the world were surprisingly unanimous in stating that given the extremely limited capabilities of UN troops and the fact that their deployment to maintain the peace in various regions is having little effect, the participation of troops from the largest states of the relevant subregions in peacekeeping activity is practically unavoidable.

But if our state is obliged to assume the role of peacemaker, then it should do this according to a few sensible rules.

First and foremost, the multitude of "power centers" making decisions on behalf of the executive must be eradicated. The representatives of different ministries may, of course, hold a dissimilar view on one and the same issue, but when it is a matter of national security it is better to resolve debates behind closed doors and to submit the agreed decisions for public scrutiny, and any

deviation from the decision adopted and endorsed shou'd mean the resignation of the relevant official. There is also, apparently, an organ to ensure the coordination of the efforts of individual ministries and departments responsible for regulating conflicts—the Security Council, although when it was run by Skokov this institution was used more as an instrument of domestic political struggle than a base for hammering out Russia's policy in conflict zones. It is possible that the Council's new secretary, Lobov, may be able to reorganize it and increase the impact of any decisions.

Likewise, it is necessary to legitimize the presence of Russian troops in conflict zones. Their functions, place of deployment, and activity should be clearly regulated. In a bid to do away with the perception of the presence of Russian troops as a manifestation of imperial aspirations, their inclusion in the body of multinational forces as a peacekeeping contingent is expedient. It is most preferable by far for the actions of Russian peacekeeping forces to be under the aegis and control of the United Nations and other international organizations.

In a number of cases, what is required is the urgent replacement of contingents billeted in conflict zones such as Abkhazia. Units here are in point of fact siding with the Abkhaz separatists, and the temptation for military commanders to get involved in the political struggle at their own risk by acting in direct contravention of official directives to remain neutral is growing.

Finally, Russia must have a clear-cut concept (both for domestic usage, as well as for the outside world) of state policy in neighboring foreign states in general, and in the conflict zones in particular.

Political Issues

Paper Lists Leaders' Activities, New Appointments

PM3009091593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed roundup: "Executive Power: Monitoring"]

[Text]

Meetings, Talks, Conferences

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's working day began as usual on Monday, at 0830 in the Kremlin. According to a report by V. Kostikov, his press secretary, the head of state's schedule consisted of "routine meetings," which also include reports by the leaders of the power ministries and reports on the situation in the provinces.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, held talks with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu on the further development of Russian-Romanian economic ties. In the evening a dinner was given in the high-ranking guest's honor.

Yesterday evening First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko held an operational conference to discuss the situation which had taken shape at that hour. All the vice premiers participated in the conference.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets was engaged on current affairs in the first half of the day but then, like his colleagues, participated in the operational conference.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar held a working conference with centers under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and then a conference on questions of strengthening and developing the social sphere.

Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov and Aleksandr Shokhin flew to Washington to participate in the work of a session of the IMF Board of Governors.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays met with representatives of Cheboksary Tractor Plant.

Cadres

Edicts of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin have:

—appointed Sergey Stepashin Russian Federation first deputy minister of security. Previously he held the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security Questions;

—released from his post Aleksandr Kurtin, chairman of the Russian Federation Pension Fund Board, and made Vasiliy Barchuk acting chairman of the Fund Board;

—appointed Pavel Guzhvin chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics. Previously he held the post of head of Astrakhan Oblast Administration;

—appointed Vladimir Barabanov the Russian Federation president's representative in Bryansk Oblast. Yuriy Lodkin, who previously acted in this capacity, has been dismissed;

—appointed Mikhail Mityukov chairman of the Legislative Proposals Commission under the Russian Federation president;

—appointed Sergey Kovalev leader of the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president;

—appointed Vladimir Zhurbenko first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff. Previously he held the post of deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff;

—appointed Sergey Almazov director of the Russian Federation Tax Police Department.

Directives of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government have:

—introduced an additional post of deputy minister in the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and appointed to it Aleksandr Pochinok, who previously held the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission on the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices. In addition, Aleksandr Pochinok has been appointed chairman of the Russian Federation Commission for the Transfer of Supreme Soviet Affairs, which has been formed by an edict of the Russian president;

—released Yuriy Ivakin from the post of first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Pension Fund Board and made Yuriy Lyublin acting first deputy chairman of the Fund Board.

Documents

In connection with the termination of the powers of Russian people's deputies and the scheduling of elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly for 11-12 December 1993 an edict of the Russian Federation president has canceled the elections of Russian Federation people's deputies in corresponding electoral districts previously scheduled for 26 September and 3 October 1993.

For the purposes of stepping up currency and export control in the Russian Federation an edict of the Russian president has laid down that the Russian Federal Currency and Export Control Service is a central organ of the federal executive formed to carry out the currency and export control functions of the Russian Federation Government. Viktor Krun, leader of the Russian Federal Currency and Export Control Service, has been made a member of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

A Russian Federation Government directive has entrusted the Ministry of Labor, jointly with other central organs of the federal executive, with organizing work on finding employment for Russian Federation people's deputies of the 1990-1995 Convocation who, as of 21 September 1993, were members of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet or worked in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and its organs on a permanent basis.

A directive of the Russian Federation president has entrusted the Russian Federation Presidential Administration with establishing the information bulletin PREZIDENTSKIY KONTROL [Presidential Control], to provide regular coverage of the activities of central and regional control organs with regard to the practical exercise of presidential control.

Body on Defense Sectors Industry Becomes State Committee

PM2909144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Law of the Russian Federation "On Reorganizing the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry," dated 10 September and signed by Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] Article 1. In accordance with Article 21 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Council of Ministers Government," the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry is to be reorganized as the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry.

Article 2. This law is to come into effect on publication.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

House of the Soviets of Russia

Moscow, 10 September 1993

No. 5709-1

Yavlinskiy Unveils Centrist Election Program

MK2909134993 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Alena Galan report: "Grigoriy Yavlinskiy Promulgates Election Program"]

[Text] Despite the fact that the official election campaign has not started yet, Boris Yeltsin's decision to hold early elections for central bodies of power has spurred into political activity primarily those laying claim to the presidential seat. Meeting foreign journalists yesterday, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, director of the EPI-Center, inaugurated his election program.

It became clear at the press conference that Mr. Yavlinskiy's program focuses on the protection of private ownership and stabilization of the national currency in conditions of a federal democratic republic. One can make the general conclusion that Yavlinskiy has opted for a centrist pragmatist position that enabled him in the press conference to sharply criticize both Boris Yeltsin and the dissolved parliament. He appears to adhere to this stance, which may in the future win him sufficiently massive political support since under Russian conditions, the centrist stance usually wins the greatest sympathies.

Importantly, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has some like-minded men in the government, on whose support he may count in the future. Yavlinskiy spoke in the most positive terms about Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov who, in his words, realize the need "to prevent inflation from getting out of control in connection with elections" and "to prevent the financial system as such from falling apart in connection with regional separatism."

On the other hand, it became clear which figures in the government Yavlinskiy does not intend to cooperate with, above all Anatoliy Chubays. A consistent supporter of selling, rather than distributing, state property, Yavlinskiy does not think that the process conducted by Anatoliy Chubays is privatization. He terms the measures taken by the State Committee for the Management of State Property as collectivization, and the open joint-stock companies, created on the basis of denationalized enterprises, industrial collective farms.

At the same time, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is trying to shape public opinion to support not only simultaneous elections for the president and the parliament but also for regional authorities since "the legitimacy of authority in Russia is measured by the date of election rather than by laws." That, he believes, may prevent possible conflicts between the regions and future federal authorities.

Essentially, Yavlinskiy is trying to ensure that the present authorities be replaced by people of more moderate views who will be able to concentrate efforts on economic reform without becoming distracted by internal political struggles.

Economic Issues

Government's Economic Work Shows 'Business as Usual'

PM2909154393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under "In the Government" rubric: "Staraya Ploshchad: Business as Usual"]

[Text] Despite the complication of the internal political situation the Russian Government is keeping to its normal, "regulation" routine. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent was informed by Dmitriy Galtsov, a senior staffer in the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government apparatus. As always the government is fulfilling its main function by remaining the operational control center of the country's economy.

Since the transition to market relations has put most sectors of the national economic complex in a fairly difficult position, specialists in the government apparatus are having to work hard. Let me say frankly that most people's working day in Staraya Ploshchad ends in the early hours of the morning.

Practically the heaviest workload now falls on two first deputy prime ministers—Oleg Soskovets, who coordinates the work of all national economic complex sectors, and Yegor Gaydar, who is responsible for economic questions. Because the main thing now is to halt the slump in industrial production and stabilize finances.

Given the rapidly changing situation the government must make precise, clear decisions and promptly convey them to administrative organs in the regions. These are the questions being studied by the staff of Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government apparatus. It is on them that the main workload is falling.

But the tone is being set by the premier himself, whose working day often ends after midnight. "Russia still has everything enabling it to become an economically mighty power again," Viktor Chernomyrdin says. "That is something worth working for."

New Currency, Export Control Service Described

MK2909154293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Vadim Bardin report: "Commercial Banks May Become Government Agents"]

[Text] Two edicts—"On Improving Work With Foreign Investments" and "On the Federal Currency and Export Control Service"—which were simultaneously released for official distribution yesterday—make up a single package determining priorities in Russian foreign economic regulation. It is expected to raise the effectiveness of currency control first of all by setting up a paramilitary unit as part of the newly created service and by authorizing the latter to retain "other organizations of the Russian Federation" as currency control agents.

Creating a currency control system has been a longtime dream of the executive branch. Presently, this system includes nothing but the first stage of the Single Automated Control System set up by the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry to monitor specialized exporters' compliance with currency legislation. The edict "On the Federal Currency and Export Control Service [FCECS]" is bound to give a significant boost to the service.

It is not even that the FCECS was elevated to the rank of ministry and its head, Viktor Krunya, made a member of the Council of Ministers. More importantly, the service's main objectives—searching for and closing loopholes in currency legislation that make it possible for hard currency to be legally siphoned out of the country; creating data bases designed to detect organizations that allegedly allow hard currency to flow out; conducting operational inquiries "on the ground" into accounting practices—will be backed by the requisite personnel resources. The edict allows "up to 50 officers from the federal state security agencies, foreign intelligence service, the Internal Affairs Ministry, and the Defense Ministry" to be attached to the FCECS. The service will get its own paramilitary unit entrusted with intelligence and punitive functions. The edict, however, contains one more paragraph at least as important for effective currency control. In addition to delegating the government's currency control functions to the FCECS, the edict authorizes it to retain as currency control agents "other organizations of the Russian Federation." The mechanism of this retention will be determined by the FCECS itself. It is clear that commercial banks will be the first to receive offers to become "agents," and in order to make them more compliant they will soon be subjected to audits to find out how they are adhering to currency legislation.

Edict Exempting Foreign Investment From Laws Assessed

MK2909140193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Vadim Bardin report: "Foreign Capital Has Acquired Immunity from Russian Laws"]

[Text] Among the president's first decisions adopted after the dissolution of the parliament is an edict officially circulated yesterday with the eloquent title "On Perfecting Work With Foreign Investments." The regulation principles recorded in the edict, especially immunity (for three years) for existing foreign and joint ventures from subsequent Russian regulatory acts causing property damage to these enterprises, demonstrates to foreign investors that their legal status in Russia's new political situation is being consolidated.

The imposition of presidential rule in Russia has received wide support on the part of political leaders of the largest Western countries. This, however, does not translate into support from cautious foreign investors. As world experience shows, in choosing a country to make capital inputs, foreign investors put political and economic stability first. Here Russia has nothing to boast about so far. It is no accident that in the rating list of countries attractive to foreign investors regularly published by the London journal EUROMONEY, last year Russia occupied 129th place out of 169, and this year it has fallen to 149th. If foreign investors interpret the latest events in Moscow as growing instability, there is no way one can count on an inflow of foreign investments.

The aim of the edict is to prevent this scenario from happening. Assessing it, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy noted that the president has done everything he could and it is only to be regretted that he cannot issue direct orders to foreign investors to invest capital in Russia. If one discounts Mr. Yavlinskiy's sarcasm—explained by his

own political ambitions—it needs to be admitted that the changes in the regulating mechanism are really substantial. First of all, newly issued normative acts regulating the terms for the operation of foreign undertakings and joint ventures in Russia will not be applicable for a period of three years with respect to already existing foreign and joint ventures if they cause them material damage. Second, regional and sectoral free-wheeling in foreign investment regulation is being stopped. Restrictions on the activity of foreign investors may be established only by Russian laws and presidential edicts. Decisions by any bodies of executive or representative branches not envisioned under these acts have been deemed invalid. Third, the government is tasked with producing within a month a package of documents which are to confirm the priority of soliciting foreign investments. These include: procedures for converting Russia's foreign debts into foreign investments; a mechanism for using security instruments to attract foreign capital; procedures for foreign investors' participation in privatization programs on a par with Russian enterprises; a program for attracting foreign capital to defense enterprise conversion projects; a list of priority sectors for drawing foreign investments and conversely, a list of spheres that are off limits to them.

On the whole, the president's edict shows that foreign investments in Russia are being transferred from the "national regime," when their status in principle did not differ from that of Russia's domestic enterprises, to a privileged regime, designed to stimulate their influx.

[Article is accompanied by following boxed passage]

Foreign Investments in Russia

As of the beginning of 1993, foreign capital invested in authorized capital funds of joint ventures registered in CIS countries constituted $3.5-4 billion, including $1.8-2 billion in Russia;

In Russia, more than 195,000 people are employed in joint ventures; the average number of employees at one venture is 200 people;

In 1992 joint ventures sold 170 billion rubles worth of products on the domestic market, exported $1,863 million, and imported $2,036 million worth of goods;

Among the joint ventures engaged in material production in Russia, the leading positions are occupied by enterprises with a share of foreign capital from the FRG—334, the United States—327, Finland—163, and Italy—152.

Gaydar Addresses Reform Club, Comments on Inflation

LD2909143493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Belyayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The latest meeting of the Cooperation reform club, which is headed by [First Deputy Prime Minister] Yegor Gaydar, was devoted to the difficult economic and political situation in Russia. Heads of the biggest entrepreneurial associations and unions, leaders of a number of political parties and movements, and well-known Russian businessmen offered their own recommendations to the government, as the sole body of power existing until the December elections, on ways of ending the crisis:

[Begin recording] [Belyayev] How do you assess today's meeting of your club and how do you see the situation in the country?

[Gaydar] The meeting of the club was, as always, frank. A very wide variety of views were expressed. My presence here does not mean, of course, that I agree with everything that was said. But one must be aware of all this in order to make decisions, especially as there are very many intelligent and influential people here.

The present economic situation is difficult. Unfortunately, many factors are currently stimulating the development of inflationary processes. Life can go on when inflation is fairly well established but it is a hazardous business. Unfortunately, people realize fairly quickly that inflation is a tax on their money and that inflationary financing is money which is taken out of their pockets each month. So they react to this situation by fleeing into dollars and reducing their ruble holdings. This greatly restricts opportunities for economic maneuvering.

At the moment our main objectives are, unfortunately, short-term ones, to be achieved over the next three months. We must prevent a sharp jump in inflation and the collapse of the currency system. I believe that these goals are achievable. [end recording]

Government Discusses Measures for Winter Season

LD2909225493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The government commission for day-to-day management has ended a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday [29 September] by approving a draft resolution on a package of measures to ensure fuel and electricity supply and central heating to the national economy and consumers in the autumn and winter of 1993-1994. The meeting was chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

Under the resolution drawn up by the fuel and energy ministry, the government commission for crediting policies is instructed to raise credit funds to meet the priority needs of industrial enterprises engaged in preparations for the autumn-winter season. This also includes Rbl [rubles] 400 Bn [billion] for the construction of new fuel and energy facilities.

However, Minister for Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik said that Rbl 800 Bn at least would be needed for the purpose.

The draft also provides for Rbl 442 Bn spending for the shipment of oil and oil products to the Far North and Rbl 325 Bn for the purchase of fuel and preparation of public utilities for the winter season.

The commission had in principle approved a federal program on the development of locomotive engineering in Russia during 1993-1995 which will cost Rbl 204.4 Bn to implement with the government expected to allocate Rbl 71.6 Bn of that sum at prices of the first quarter of this year. Simultaneously, the government is planning to allocate an annual $78.5 Mn [million] for passenger locomotive imports from other countries.

Railway Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev put the current number of locomotives in Russia at about 25,000 with half of them expected to run out of service by 1995. He said the ministry would need about 700 new locomotives every year, home or foreign-made, before the end of the century.

State Grain Procurement Ahead of Last Year

PM3009092993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Ivan Galkin report: "Grain Purchases Are Proceeding Successfully"]

[Text] By 20 September grain crops in Russia had been harvested on 70 percent of the sown areas. The harvest had already been cut and threshed on 37.4 million hectares. The net weight of threshed grain totaled 78.2 million tonnes. This is 9.4 million tonnes less than last year. But the purchasing of grain crops is proceeding more actively than last year. State reserves have received 20.1 million tonnes of grain—2.5 million tonnes more than in 1992. As of 20 September, state purchases of grain crops amounted to 10.6 million tonnes of wheat (128 percent of 1992), 3.7 million tonnes of barley (143 percent), and 4.2 million tonnes of rye (79 percent). The state resources' receipt of strong strains of wheat has fallen by a factor of 2.5.

Sugar beets have been lifted on 158,000 hectares (12 percent of all the areas). The average yield of this crop stands at 224 quintals per hectare. This is 18 percent higher than last year.

An alarming situation is taking shape with the preformance of field work for next year's harvest. By 20 September winter grain crops had been sown on 9.7 million hectares, against 13.3 million in 1992.

Deputy Minister Notes Harvest's Problems

LD2909155993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Due to bad weather conditions and a worsening economic situation in agriculture, Russia seems to be able to harvest no more grain than in 1992 when the mass production of grain totalled 106.8 million tons, Russia's Deputy Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Yefremov warned Tuesday [28 September] the government commission in charge of the harvesting campaign.

Earlier this year experts forecast a record harvest of 115-120 million tons of grain.

Yefremov said that as of September 27 cereals had not been harvested from 13.1 million hectares, or 24 percent of the area under crops. Over 80 million tons of grain have been thrashed.

The harvesting campaign is not yet over and the winter crops have not been fully sown due to steady rains in the Urals and Siberia and the snow that fell in the Kostroma, Tver, Yaroslavl, and other regions of central and northwestern Russia. Besides, farmers have not received money for the grain, sunflower seeds, and sugar-beet they sold to the state. Harvesting vehicles had to stay idle from time to time due to interruptions in supplies of fuel and lubricants, and the shortage of spare parts for repairs. All of these factors, believes the commission headed by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha, may lead to less grain being harvested from the fields and some areas under crops could even stay covered by snow.

Effect of Government Moves on Grain Market Viewed

PM2909151593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "Grain Prices Falling but Bread Prices Rising"]

[Text] The Russian Government has issued a set of decrees on agrarian questions. One of them revokes the indexation of prices for agricultural produce bought for federal food stocks from the 1993 harvest. Another lays down a new procedure for determining grain prices, while a third outlines measures to improve the supply of mixed feed to stockraising. All three decrees relate to the grain market.

The abolition of price indexation for agricultural produce is linked to the approaching end of the harvest. Last year the state's price policy in the grain market was far more elaborate and prices were raised in the middle of the harvest, which meant that those who were conscientious and sold their grain to the state first were the losers. This year, as Leonid Kholod, chief of the Agriculture Ministry's price policy administration, explained, it was decided to index prices for grain to the rate of inflation so as not to repeat last year's sorry experience and not to

encourage those who fail to fulfill their contractual commitments. At the end of the harvest in the various regions the index is to be removed so as to encourage faster sales.

True, the Finance Ministry has argued in favor of abolishing the state price for grain completely on the grounds that such pricing takes us back to the days of state regulation. The Agriculture Ministry defended a different position, however: The state is now one of the participants in the market and sets a guide price. Formally this is indeed so, but in fact there is no one else in our grain market even slightly comparable with the state.

Abolishing grain price indexation will reduce spending from the state treasury, as will the new procedure for determining grain prices. Essentially this means that the fixed price for baking flour grain, which has been set for the fourth quarter at 55,000 rubles a tonne, is being abolished. You will not have to wait long for bread prices in the stores to rise.

However, the decree "On Measures To Supply Mixed Feed to Poultry Enterprises, Stockraising Complexes, and Stud Farms" will encourage extra purchases of forage grain and materials other than grain for stockraising purposes, and this can be achieved either by means of the now-defunct [state] orders or by setting higher prices.

At the moment the state's financial policy with regard to the countryside is formed thus: We switch off one form of expenditure and switch on another.

Farm Strike Organizers Make 'Unrealistic' Demands

PM2909145193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "Agrarian Party Leaders Dreaming of One-Hour All-Russia Peasant Strike"]

[Text] This week would have been famous for an all-Russia peasant strike had it not been for last week's events, whose political and economic significance eclipsed the measure.

A strike in the conditions pertaining in rural production is scarcely conceivable, which is why a purely token form of strike—a one-hour refusal to work—was chosen.

When peasants want to achieve economic results they take more serious steps: For example, they stop selling milk to the processing plants. But the aims of the planned one-hour strike are more political than economic. You get the impression that the well-known antireformist Deputy Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party and of the collective action coordinating council, and the leadership of the Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Trade Union Central Committee want to remind the government and the people of their existence.

The demands that have been formulated are not exceptionally businesslike: preferential funding of the countryside and price parity can be established only by returning to a rigidly state-run economy, but that return is hardly realistic economically, no matter how desirable it may seem to the organizers of the one-hour strike. However, the abiding impression is that making unrealistic demands is the organizers' principle. It provides a pretext for repeating the strike call on a number of other occasions.

The new development in the country's political life is bound to make the strike organizers want to ally the peasants to one of the opposing camps. By and large you can see which one— the deputies' camp. But it is hardly likely that all of Russia's peasants will now be drawn into the political feud. Meanwhile the timber workers' strike planned around this time has been postponed.

Procedures for Obtaining Bread Allowance Outlined

PM3009081993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Tatyana Khudyakova report: "'Bread' Money: Who Can Get It and How"]

[Text] A new kind of social welfare payment—for bread—is being introduced in Russia in accordance with a presidential edict and a government decree. This is connected with the liberalization of the price of this vitally important food product as of 1 October.

At IZVESTIYA's request Lyudmila Pronina, administration chief at the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population, spoke about the document's main provisions.

Since bread prices started rising in August, three levels of benefit have been established: 235 rubles [R] for August, R470 for September, and R1,400 a month for the fourth quarter.

In determining the range of people eligible for "bread" money, the level of the minimum pension—R14,620—was used. This sum is closer to the minimum living standard than the minimum wage.

Thus, any worker earning less than R14,620, all the workless whose pensions and benefits fall below this level, refugees, enforced migrants, and the unemployed (whether drawing benefits or on retraining courses) can claim the "bread" benefit. It can also be claimed by mothers on leave to care for children up to the age of three, the workless who have to care for invalids or the elderly, all children up to the age of 16, schoolchildren up to the age of 18, undergraduates, and postgraduates.

Benefits will be paid on demand upon mandatory presentation of the appropriate documents—a pension book, certificates from the unemployed and refugees, children's birth certificates, and so forth. Quite honestly, it is hard to even imagine how much time will be wasted

processing these millions of certificates—after all, virtually one in every three people in Russia can claim the benefit. But specialists assure us that this procedure cannot be avoided—it is the only way to establish those really in need of the subsidy.

One last point—citizens will draw their "bread" money at the place where they are paid their wages, pensions, other benefits, and so forth. Each recipient's benefit will be paid from "their own" source of funding—for pensioners it will be the Pensions Fund; for workers, their enterprise; and, for the workless, the social welfare organs. Spending on compensation payments will be reimbursed from local budget funds.

Yeltsin's Retention of Central Bank Chief Questioned

PM2909091193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 5

[Mikhail Berger article: "Gerashchenko's Fourth Appointment as Chief Banker"]

[Text] On Wednesday evening President Boris Yeltsin confirmed Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko chairman of the Central Bank. This is Gerashchenko's fourth appointment in the past few years as boss of the head office in the banking complex on Neglinnaya Ulitsa.

Viktor Vladimirovich Gerashchenko, who is now Russia's chief banker, is both unlucky and lucky at the same time. He had not managed to complete half of his term of office after ratification by the Union Supreme Soviet as chairman of the USSR State Bank before the putsch took place. All the Union leaders were removed from office, Gerashchenko among them. A "commissar" from the Russian government—a Russian deputy finance minister—was appointed to the State Bank.

The appointee was in charge for just three or four days before Gerashchenko returned to his post. A few more months passed and the USSR State Bank ceased to exist. This time the hiatus was somewhat longer but was still relatively short. In the summer of last year Viktor Vladimirovich replaced Georgiy Matyukhin as head of the Central Bank of Russia. And finally, on the evening of Wednesday, 22 September, he became chairman of the national bank for the fourth time.

Let us leave aside the first three appointments—they are susceptible to logical explanation or at least have already been analyzed several times in the press by all the people interested in the matter. As for the president's latest decision, here we find food for thought. Gerashchenko's arrival is associated with the end of the liberal reform of the Russian economy last year. He turned on the money supply which Gaydar's team had worked so hard to turn off. He made access to money easier for state enterprises by carrying out reciprocal debt settlement. He was instrumental in the fact that Russia gave what was essentially free aid to the states which are consumers of Russian goods. Thanks to the so-called Central Bank technical credits they were able to pay for deliveries from Russia using Russian money granted to them without any preconditions at all. A significant proportion of the technical credit money was then returned to the Russian consumer market or the currency exchange market, fueling an already high inflation rate.

Gerashchenko carried out the bizarre exchange of money which alarmed the whole CIS. Last and surely most important of all, from the very start of his work as chairman of the Russian Central Bank he proclaimed that the bank's main task was not to maintain a firm national currency but to support industry. As a result Russia's money and Russian industry are both collapsing.

To all intents and purposes it was Gerashchenko and not the Supreme Soviet that forced Gaydar to resign. Why should he not try to do that again, especially as there is no evidence to suggest that Gerashchenko has changed his own position at all? He has diverged so clearly from the government's economic policy that it is impossible to imagine any significant change in his views or preferences.

The president, who hot-headedly (perhaps too hot-headedly) threatened him quite recently: "Just wait till 26 April, Gerashchenko!...," has now demonstrated just what was in store for Gerashchenko: a new appointment.

Perhaps with a great effort of the imagination you might imagine that the head of the Central Bank, who is under the government and the president, is going to pursue their policy. But if he or any Central Bank chairman wants to change sides, the opportunities for that in this post are simply limitless. It is possible to finance any election campaign or action and do this furthermore through some Far East administration in such a way that no one will have any idea where the money is coming from. Today, with the appearance of the 50,000-ruble bank note, a half-million rubles can be easily carried in a large handbag or a small attache case. The former Soviet foreign banks operating in London, Paris, Zurich, and other major financial centers offer even greater potential for operations concealed from the gaze of domestic Russian control.

Even without those foreign banks the Central Bank has vast potential for influencing political events if it wants to. The head of the Central Bank's local office effectively intervened in a conflict between the authorities in Chelyabinsk. When for the umpteenth time the manager was told last Friday to carry out the administration's instructions, he replied that he would carry out the instructions of the Supreme Soviet and Rutskoy. He consulted a long time with Moscow before making that statement.

The government instructed the Central Bank as of Wednesday, 22 September to carry out a set of measures coordinated with the Finance Ministry to protect the Russian national currency so as to prevent a sharp fluctuation in the exchange rate. The results of trading in the currency market enable you to tell just how the Central Bank, which has several billion dollars in its

reserves, carried out this government instruction. This happened the day after Gerashchenko's fourth appointment. It is hard to imagine that the Central Bank did not have the technical ability to ease the exchange rate fluctuations, but it is easy to imagine the impression that this made on business circles which naturally link the collapse of the ruble with the latest directives by the president and the government.

To be frank, the president's strategic imprudence is somewhat surprising. He confirms the powers of people who clearly do not support his policy. Perhaps the president is thus showing his political breadth? But then you have to be ready for the possibility that the collapse of the ruble exchange rate is not the most significant price that will have to paid for that breadth.

On the other hand in his first few edicts the president deprived people's deputies of some minor benefits and privileges such as free travel. This is incomprehensible. Is it to unite them in the struggle against the president's team? The old-fashioned rules of warfare forbade leaders from cutting enemy troops off from their water supply. A thirst-crazed enemy will fight with redoubled strength and will sweep away everything in his path without resorting to great military subtlety. So why was it necessary to cut the deputies off from their "water supply"? Admittedly, 24 hours after that edict the president ordered that they be given virtually a lifetime's supply of drinking water. But that was after the damage had been done.

Western politicians who supported Yeltsin emphasize that the Russian president is taking on a huge responsibility. While siding with that view, I would like the president to make the most effective use possible of the political capital that he has acquired in recent days. It is not so great as to permit extravagance, but the history of events since August 1991 shows that far greater political capital has been spent in vain before.

Military & Space Issues

Supreme Soviet Resolution on Call-Up Remains in Force

LD2909142393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] As you know, before President Yeltsin signed the decree on stage-by-stage constitutional reform in Russia, the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution concerning the call-up for active military service of students from technical colleges and industrial trade schools who reached the age of 18. Our listeners ask if this resolution is legally valid, whether it is going to be implemented by military registration and enlistment offices, and what the Defense Ministry thinks of it.

We managed to find out that last Friday several military registration offices in Moscow had already received an instruction from the General Staff ordering them to conduct the call-up of students from industrial trade schools and technical colleges over the age of 18. This week the instruction is to be received by all military registration offices. Therefore, in accordance with a Supreme Soviet resolution, the Russian army will get additional several hundred thousand conscripts.

Navy Commander on Baltic Fleet Problems, Future

WS2909083093 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 5

[Interview with Admiral F. Gromov, Navy commander in chief, by Captain Second Rank Y. Golovin; place and date not given: "Admiral F. Gromov, Commander in Chief of the Russian Navy: 'Anyway, There Is Less Concern Than Hope'"]]

[Text] [Golovin] Comrade Admiral, last week a group of admirals and officers from the Naval Chief Headquarters under your leadership worked in the Baltic Fleet and the garrisons of Kaliningrad, Baltiysk, Chkalovsk, Riga, and Liepaja. How do you assess the current situation in the Baltic Fleet against the background of its withdrawal from the Baltic states?

[Gromov] The Baltic Fleet has more problems than other fleets of the Russian Federation. Certainly, the key issue is associated with the withdrawal of vessels, units, and subunits from the Baltics. I would like to remind you that the Baltics had about 60 percent of the key fleet bases on their territory, including 100 percent of our submarine bases.

Naturally, the loss of this infrastructure, which was developed over centuries, has had a negative effect on our system of bases. It is this issue that gives rise to the following two problems: The creation of a new system, and the accommodation of fleet servicemen, primarily officers and warrant officers, at new bases.

At the same time, I can claim that the remaining base system in the Baltics allows the Baltic Fleet to fulfill tasks assigned to it. These tasks are slightly restricted today. For example, the number of long-distance missions has been reduced.

In September, the Baltic Fleet will be subject to another serious and detailed inspection by the Defense Ministry. This inspection will assess the results of the final stage of the first training period in the area of battle readiness and discipline, as well as the problems of fleet withdrawal from the Baltic states.

I suppose that the Baltic Fleet withdrawal will be completed in 1994 in accordance with the draft agreements between Russia and the Baltic states. True, these agreements have not yet been concluded.... However, today we must focus our attention on the organization of normal military training, the provision of normal service and living conditions at new bases—both in Kaliningrad and Leningrad Oblasts.

[Golovin] Judging by a number of recent examples, Western countries, including the EC states, have not renounced the attempts to exert pressure on Russia with the purpose of speeding up its naval and troop withdrawal from the Baltic states. Since the draft agreements with the Baltics remain only drafts, will this withdrawal not turn into a retreat...?

[Gromov] It is obvious that both the Baltic states and the West would like a speedy withdrawal. However, apart from this, one must also take into account all the historical factors and circumstances, as well as the need for social security guarantees for these people.... Today Russia is actually incapable of quickly accommodating tens of thousands of withdrawn servicemen. There is no question of withdrawing them to "nowhere."

[Golovin] A major part of the Baltic Fleet is being withdrawn to Kaliningrad Oblast. What is the future of the fleet in this region and its place in the formation of a "qualitatively new land-air-sea group," according to Defense Minister General P. Grachev's statement?

[Gromov] To answer this question, it is necessary to clearly realize the peculiarities of this Russian region. It is separated from the main territory and surrounded by the Baltic states, Belarus, and Poland, with access to neutral waters. Considering the "rear" position of the Baltic Fleet bases in Leningrad Oblast and the concentration of its key forces in this region, I would not be wrong to call the fleet the essential structure of the future group. Its role will continue to grow. I think that this group will produce a correlation between forces and measures that will guarantee the security of Kaliningrad Oblast as an integral part of Russia.

It is too early to speak about the quantitative and qualitative parameters of this group. However, I can say today with certainty that it will be more compact than the former group. This is unequivocal. As for our neighbors' anxiety over this issue, they must take into account and understand our concern for our own security.

[Golovin] Today, the importance of the key Baltic Fleet base—Baltiysk—has grown even more. It has many pressing problems both as a base and a town. The interests, often conflicting ones, of two institutions—the military and civilians—intersect here. For example, the latter see the essential alternative in developing a large trade port in Baltiysk.... In your opinion, what would be a wise and realistic compromise?

[Gromov] Given its current situation as a town, Baltiysk requires huge investments for the development of its social infrastructure. It is very difficult to resolve the town's problems without the formation of either industrial or port capacities. We have already found a compromise in this situation: Port facilities that are necessary both to Russia and Kaliningrad Oblast can be developed in separate areas of Baltiysk. If relative final decisions are adopted, we are prepared to cooperate with those who are ready to invest in the construction of these facilities.

[Golovin] Much depends on the interaction between commanders and local authorities with regard to this and many other issues. How would you assess the level and efficiency of these relations?

[Gromov] Certain efficiency is obvious. I think, however, that it is insufficient, since, for example, neither Kaliningrad nor the oblast has fully repaid their debts to the fleet for housing. Both sides have something to work on here. During our meetings with the head of the oblast administration, the oblast soviet chairman, and authorities from Baltiysk and Kaliningrad, we have found certain points of mutual understanding on the issue of expanding the scope of housing construction for reserve servicemen and those withdrawn from the Baltics. There is a real possibility of getting from 250 to 300 apartments.

[Golovin] One more question. Since construction of not a single ship has begun over of the last year in Russia, nor have any new ships been launched, some people have jumped to the conclusion: The Russian Fleet is approaching its collapse rather than its 300th anniversary.... How many of these gloomy "predictions" are grounded? What is your view of the Russian Fleet's future?

[Gromov] Similar speculations are wrong. It is only this year that the Baltic Fleet received several ships of a new type. Moreover, our fleet will be soon be receiving five large surface ships and submarines.

The Armed Forces are currently being restructured, and the number of its personnel will be reduced to 1.5 million. The reduction of our fleet will range from 28 to 30 percent. Certainly, this also means a smaller number of ships. These forces will be more compact, but they will be capable of performing tasks that meet Russia's national interests on its close borders, including the Baltic, Japanese, and Barents Seas, as well as in any area of the world's oceans. Russia was, is, and will always be a naval superpower. It will have a fleet worthy of this name and status.

As before, the ships of our fleet are performing patrol duties and nuclear deterrence, accomplishing long-distance missions and visits to foreign ports, and fulfilling commitments beyond the Arctic ices, in the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean....

In short, our fleet is lively and active. I think that it will see its 300th anniversary with dignity.

[Golovin] Will this also apply to the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea...?

[Gromov] I suppose that the latest talks in the Crimea left no room for doubt in this matter. The fleet and its bases originated under such historical conditions that they cannot be discarded or eliminated with one stroke, no matter where and when this might happen.

The adopted agreement clearly states the key principle: All of the Black Sea Fleet based in the Crimea will be under Russia's jurisdiction. I suppose that this principle

is in line with the historical truth and logic. I hope that both sides will make it the basis of all subsequent negotiations and actions concerning the Black Sea Fleet.

Thus, there is less concern than hope today....

[Golovin] Thank you for the interview.

Filming of Mir's Exterior Fails as Space Suit Overheats

LD2909044593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by Sergey Slipchenko; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] During the past few weeks, in accordance with the space flight program, there have been three space walks. During the first two walks, a new boom, Rapana, was fixed in place. Today, Vasiliy Tsibliyev and Aleksandr Serebrov were to video film the main unit of the Mir space station and the docked units. This filming is necessary so that specialists on Earth can study—and really study—the photographs. During every filming session, the station can apparently be seen, but that is just so-called visual shots. Designers need to examine in detail the station's outer surface and to detect all changes from the coloration and the metal corrosion. In general, it is necessary to realize what has fallen off during the long years in space and what has not.

Inside the station, everything can be seen, like these components, for example, but not outside. So, to carry out that work, at 0352 at night, the cosmonauts went out into space. Aleksandr Serebrov positioned a new cassette of material samples and collected one of the panels of the American commercial load, but Vasiliy Tsibliyev felt that he was getting a little warm in his space suit. Instruments on earth detected overheating. It was assumed that the heat-removing liquid was not moving around the suit, and so, one hour and 52 minutes later, the cosmonauts returned to the station. Total filming had not been achieved, and the space walk will probably have to be repeated.

Media Issues

RIA-NOVOSTI Board Chairman Discuss Agency's Future

PM2909100193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Igor Andreyev report: "RIA Expected To Shape Russia's Image Abroad"]

[Text] The process of winding up the Russian Information Agency NOVOSTI (the former SOVINFORMBYURO and APN), which has been going on since January 1992, has ended with the setting up of... the Russian Information Agency NOVOSTI. NOVOSTI's 43-year-old political observer Vladimir Markov has been been appointed chairman of the RIA Board by a government decree enlarging on the relevant edict of the Russian Federation president.

A Germanist and translator by training, Markov joined APN in 1980. He followed the path, as he himself says, from editor to reporter to political observer. During the last two years he has covered the activity of the president and the presidential structures. A married man, he became a grandfather four years ago.

It seems that NOVOSTI will stop playing the old game called "APN reflects the position not of the state but of the public and the creative organizations which founded the agency." The former mouthpiece of the Kremlin and of Staraya Ploshchad, a cover for a host of professionals from the Lubyanka, will become a state purveyor of information for Russia and abroad. RIA has, according to Markov, the manpower and resources to put up decent competition to other structures of this kind: Miraculously, the creative potential—bureaus in 60-odd countries in the outside world and premises owned in 35—has been preserved.

In Markov's opinion a handful of agencies like, for example, TASS or INTERFAX is not enough for a huge country. The NOVOSTI Board chairman is convinced that people are ill informed at local level about the activity of all the branches of power (our conversation was accompanied by telephone calls reporting, at first unofficially and then with absolute certainty, the upcoming television address by Boris Yeltsin on 21 September—I.A.]. RIA will endeavor to fill that gap, deriving information from reliable, informed sources and analyzing it—something that virtually all the mass media are failing to do today, in the NOVOSTI chief's view. Here Markov hopes that the agency will manage to avoid the political bias and embroilment in infighting so characteristic of the Russian upper echelons today.

Regarding APN's traditional foreign thrust in the past, Markov regards it as a mistake to try to eliminate the very structure which explained the state's policy abroad and created a positive image of it. He avoids the word "propaganda," but RIA will, based on its impressive foreign network, be engaging in something akin to it. Markov reckons that the trump card in such work is the high quality of the news product, which will ensure not just that text, video, and photographic items are carried in foreign media but that the agency makes a good profit, too.

The new board chairman sees no need to drop certain traditional but tried-and-tested forms of activity. For example, the preparation of made-to-measure articles, commentaries, and photo and video news items at the behest of foreign media. New and as-yet unfamiliar services have to be taken on board. For example, the creation of an attractive image for Russian and foreign companies and firms interested in penetrating particular markets.

The state, budget-financed agency NOVOSTI must, Vladimir Markov is convinced, seek to be autonomous

and pay its own way; it must and can, according to the RIA leader, become our country's leading information structure.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Removes Sakhalin Representative

LD3009110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree releasing Vitaliy Guliy from the duties of representative of the president in Sakhalin Oblast in connection with a transfer to other work, the president's press service has reported.

'No Need' for Deputies Councils in Maritime Kray

LD3009095593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Vladivostok September 30 TASS—There is no need for councils of people's deputies at the level of villages, districts and towns, the heads of administration of the Maritime region and cities have decided at a meeting in Vladivostok.

They think that a representative body can work effectively only at the Maritime territory level. But it should not be made up of many hundreds of deputies. The optimal amount of local parliamentarians must range from 20 to 30. In that case electors will know who is personally responsible for specific actions. Now the councils are trying to supplant controlling bodies, which do nothing themselves and only point fingers at others.

Nevertheless, the heads of administration are not going to dissolve local councils by decree. They think that after the elections of the new federal representative bodies - the state duma and the federal assembly - the old councils will cease to exist.

Siberian Delegates Discuss Local Problems

LD2909155693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Delegates of 14 regions and territories of Siberia are taking part in the conference of local councils that opened September 29.

The draft resolution says that because the president and the government do not want to solve social and economic problems of Siberia, it is necessary to put forward proposals before October 15 to provide Siberia with fuel, grain and energy reserves.

Delegates are expected to adopt also a political statement. The draft statement orders that the "Siberian Accord" Association work out measures to protect the regional interests, including no more taxes to the federal budget and fewer energy and fuel deliveries outside the region.

The leader of the Kemerovo regional council, Amangeldiy Tuleyev, spoke about the need to declare a Siberian Republic which would include the Kuznetsk Coal Basin, the Altay, the Tomsk and Novosibirsk regions. Tuleyev believes that such community is aimed to force Russian President think twice before issuing next time such decrees as the one No.1400, because the regions also have their own opinion about the political situation in Russia.

The Director-General of the Siberian Accord Association Vladimir Ivankov in an interview to INTERFAX opposed Tuleyev's proposal on a self-styled Siberian republic. He believes that the process of sovereinization [as received] may destroy Russia must be discontinued. Tuleyev, he said, expressed his own opinion. But Ivankov also said about a possible Siberian economic community.

International Affairs

Further on Kravchuk Comments on Return From CIS Summit

AU3009093193 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by special correspondent Yuriy Bondar, on news conference by President Leonid Kravchuk at Boryspil Airport in Kiev on 24 September: "The Main Task Is To Preserve Ukraine"]

[Text] **Upon returning home, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met with Ukrainian and foreign journalists at Boryspil Airport. We will present the main points of the answers to some questions.**

[Question] Has Ukraine signed the economic union agreement or not?

[Kravchuk] We did not sign the agreement, because it was only signed by full members. That is to say, we could not sign it even if we wanted to. We signed a statement on Ukraine's joining the economic union as an associate member. The heads of state agreed with this.

Thus, Ukraine may take part in the preparation of all documents envisaged by the agreement on the economic union.

The economic union itself is a framework agreement which cannot be fulfilled or not fulfilled. To substantiate it, it is necessary to elaborate 35 specific agreements and mechanisms for their fulfillment. Ukraine may participate in the preparation of these documents, if they are advantageous for it. In other words, we are not outside this process, but, at the same time, we are not a member of the economic union.

[Reporter] What will Ukraine do if the situation in Russia deteriorates further?

[Kravchuk] Russia is such a powerful state that, I am sure, it will not turn to us for help. If, however, complications arise at Russia's borders with Ukraine, we will take measures to prevent those processes from spreading to the territory of Ukraine. We acted in the same way during the events in the Dniester region. Such measures will not, in any way, be directed against Russia, but will only be meant for protecting our own interests. I hope, however, that the situation will not come up to that and the situation in Russia will stabilize. I would like this to happen very much. The course that has been chosen by Yeltsin is, after all, a course forward, despite the loud rhetoric of those who are in favor of the renewal of the USSR. This is not simply a matter of restoring centralized power, but of going back to all those principles that have caused so much sacrifice and suffering to the people and to the world. Yeltsin's course is a course toward new life and a new Russia, and Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] himself has repeatedly said this.

We want a Russia that respects Ukraine, its statehood, people, and culture. We must be equal partners and good neighbors. There is no other option. I reiterate, even though not everybody may like it, that to quarrel with Russia or to try to quarrel with it is a great danger for our statehood and our future. We must try to resolve the tangle of problems patiently and in a balanced and flexible manner—only in this way.

[Reporter] Will Leonid Kravchuk run for president again?

[Kravchuk] I learned about the Supreme Council's decision to hold early parliamentary and presidential elections when I was in Moscow. In my opinion, this is a civilized way to resolve a political problem. In the final analysis, we arrived at the same thing as Russia did, but we arrived at it in our own way—civilized, democratic, and with our own vision of things. This I like.

Concerning a possible future presidency, I was not thinking about it when I spoke at the Supreme Council and I am not thinking about it now. I do not even want to think about it. The main task is to preserve Ukraine and not to allow it to be divided by opposing views and actions.

Zlenko Meets With Counterparts at UN General Assembly

WS3009102493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, head of the Ukrainian delegation to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, has held a range of meetings and consultations.

During a meeting with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, the two officials discussed the Middle East peace settlement, specific aspects of Ukrainian-Tunisian relations, and prospects for their expansion. Anatoliy Zlenko thanked the Tunisian foreign minister for his personal involvement in releasing the Ukrainian ship [name indistinct] from custody.

The foreign minister also addressed a broad range of problems during a meeting with Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi, in particular, the initiation of political contacts on relevant levels and joint action to prepare a draft political agreement to determine basic principles of bilateral relations.

The problem of POW's and MIA's emerged as one of the central issues in Afghan-Ukrainian relations. Mr. Zlenko stressed at the meeting with his Afghan counterpart Seyyed Soleyman Gilani. Ukraine, which is intensively working with relevant international organizations to search for its citizens, counts on assistance from the Afghan side. The Afghan foreign minister emphasized that his country's government is working to resolve this issue, which, however, is impeded by objective difficulties connected with the current situation in the region

and the prisoners' dispersion among numerous factions which are hard to deal with. Also discussed was the establishment of diplomatic relations and economic cooperation.

At a meeting with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, particular emphasis was placed on prospects for further expansion of economic relations between the two countries and engaging specific regions of the two countries in those relations. The Hungarian side was briefed on internal political developments in Ukraine.

The meeting of the Ukrainian foreign minister and his Spanish counterpart centered on possibilities for utilizing the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. Anatoliy Zlenko and Javier Solana Madariaga agreed that the activities of the two countries' Foreign Ministries should also be directed at the soonest possible development of a legal foundation for bilateral cooperation. Experts from the both countries will begin work in this direction next month.

Navy Commander Comments on Black Sea Fleet

WS3009093993 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 24 Sep 93 p 4

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Zinoviy Zhyzhara: "Ukraine Will Have Its Fleet"]

[Text] "Ukraine, as an independent state, will have its fleet that will be able to defend the southern sea border," stated Vice Admiral Borys Kozhyn, Ukrainian Navy commander in chief, at a meeting with Lutsk University students. The vice admiral's visit to Lutsk—as part of his vacation—is connected with his biography. He began his career here; his relatives live in Lutsk.

The commander underlined that the Navy is receiving help from all Ukrainian people. Navy servicemen show their gratitude to the workers of Lviv, Volynska, Ternopil, Zaporizhzhya, and Kherson Oblasts, as well as to the cities of Lutsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. Despite the complex situation, all efforts are being made to develop the Navy. As of today, the Navy numbers over 10,000 officers and midshipmen. Its commandment and headquarters are composed of officers that graduated from the General Headquarters Academy and the Navy Academy, some of them with doctorate degrees. Regardless of the Crimean resolutions on the Black Sea Fleet, development of the Ukrainian Navy continues and gains momentum thanks to the funds provided by the oblasts. In 10 years time the Navy will have about 100 ships of different assignments. The issue of their construction either at domestic or foreign shipyards is currently being examined.

Regarding the Black Sea Fleet issue, the vice admiral pointed out that one should not make categorical judgments on events. We have to base ourselves upon international norms and Ukrainian laws. According to the latter, all military units deployed in our territory, including the Black Sea Fleet, belong to Ukraine. Ukrainian citizens who took an oath of allegiance to Ukraine constitute 80 percent of the Black Sea Fleet personnel. The commander emphasized that state interests should not be neglected during negotiations. Today's main task is to raise the consciousness of every officer, midshipman, and sailor, as well as to provide social protection for them and create conditions that will be conducive to the defense of our homeland's interests.

Air Route Established Between Kiev, Beijing

AU2909142893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 25 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Mykola Makhinchuk, URYADOVYY KURYER special correspondent]

[Text] **Among last week's events that determine our state's prestige in the international arena, the opening of the air route Kiev-Beijing-Kiev may, perhaps, be considered the most important one.**

It happened last Saturday, on 18 September, when the silvery IL- 62 with its first passengers on board took off from "Boryspil" [punctuation as published] Airport and flew eastwards.

As stated by the general director of Ukrainian Airlines, Leonid Pohrebnyak, it is already our 17th intercontinental route. Despite all the difficulties in life, the young state continues to spread its wings. Regular routes have recently been set up with Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, and now China is to receive us. There is no doubt that regular flights between the capitals of the two states will contribute to strengthening ties between Ukraine and China and will be mutually advantageous for both nations.

That this is so, we journalists became convinced during the first flight to China where we met with diplomats and businessmen—pioneers of new roads and mutual relations. Every one already had behind him much work and business meetings—both at official institutions and at the Polish market in Beijing. They stated that both sides have great interest in each other and that, in the course of time, this must develop into fruitful cooperation. We can offer the Chinese things of interest to them, and they have more than enough to offer us.

I would like to point out that the voyage "over three seas," that is to say, to China, which once took many months, has now become dramatically short. Our IL-62 did the 7,000 km there in eight hours and then back in 10 hours. The difference in time was due to the strong wind. Therefore, while blessing the opening of the new air route Kiev-Beijing-Kiev, I would like to wish our aviators and passengers a fair wind and a soft landing.

Article Views Status, Export Potential of Tank Industry

AU2909142493 Kiev UKRAYINSKI OBRIYI in Ukrainian No. 15 (24), Sep 93 pp 2, 3

[Article by UNIAN correspondent Heorhiy Lykov with postscript by A. Starostin]

[Text] A demonstration of the potential of the G-80U tank at an exhibition in Abu-Dhabi has again testified to the high prestige attached to Soviet and post-Soviet tank construction. However, the T-84 tank, which was developed in Ukraine by specialists of the Morozov design bureau at the "Malyshev Plant" research and production association, promises to become a real sensation.

Many experts believe that Ukraine, in declaring its sovereignty, has deprived itself of the possibility of manufacturing modern and competitive weapons systems. The reasons: the high level, up to 70 percent, of cooperation ties with the Russian Federation (using old technologies), the absence of production lines for of certain sophisticated units and components, and the insufficient variety of finished products. However, even now, the availability of a developed production base, the hi-tech and considerable potential of scientific research and experimental design work enable the Ukrainian arms industry to move forward in the sphere of tank construction.

Not everybody may know that Kharkiv is the cradle of the former empire's tank construction. As far back as at the end of the 1920's, the design and manufacture of T1-12 and T-24 tanks started there. In 1938, the world's first diesel tank, the V-2, was designed, manufactured, and tested there. The numerous technological solutions underlying the creation of the famous T-34 set entire trends in world tank construction and became "classics of the genre."

There is yet to be a written history of Soviet tank building. However, today one can say with confidence that there were two schools in the branch: the Ukrainian (the Malyshev Plant in Kharkiv) and the Russian (the Kirov Plant in Leningrad). The high scientific and technological level of the Ukrainian school is corroborated by the fact that its designs of the T-54 and T-64 (the prototype of the T-80 and the T-80U) were never handed over even to Warsaw Pact allies. The T-80 and T-80U are manufactured in the Russian Federation (in Tomsk and Chelyabinsk) with gas-turbine engines. However, elite tank divisions of the former USSR—the Taman and Kantemirov divisions—are equipped with the most reliable and "omnivorous" diesel modifications manufactured in Kharkiv...

Ukraine's military-industrial complex has become the first victim of the breakup of the socialist integration that existed in the former USSR only because of its dependence upon Union structures. Starting from 1989, a large amount of military production has been curtailed. "We cannot afford to lose the potential that we used to have," says Mykhaylo Borysyuk, general designer of the Malyshev Scientific and Industrial Association, "and we have decided to take the first step forward." The result was the creation of the T-84 tank, which (like the T-80) has a number of advantages over its Western analogues. Namely:

—the small silhouette of the front and edge projection [malyy siluet lobovoyi ta bortovoyi proektsiyi];

—a weight reduction of 10-12 tonnes (the distribution of weight depends upon the added active armor);

—a three-man crew;

—automatic loading;

—guiding tank-launched missile fired through weapons [keruyucha tankova raketa, yaka strilyaye cherez zbroyu];

—a complex of electro-optical countermeasures against enemy guidance systems;

—a remote-control detonation facility of in-flight high-explosive fragmentation charges;

—an increased cross-country capability with tracks with improved grip;

—equipment for self-entrenchment;

—a possibility of adding a mine-sweeping capability;

—the low basic cost of production.

Besides, in comparison with the T-80, the Ukrainian tank has thermal protection of the engine-transmission compartment, air conditioning adapted for overcoming water obstacles without preliminary preparation and the capability of delivering surface-to-air fire with the hatch closed.

The production of armored steel is being renewed in Ukraine. Welding-katonnyy [explanation not given] technology is used for the turrets. This technology enhances the strength of the turrets by between 12 and 15 percent compared with the cast turret of the T-80. The new two-cycle multifuel engine 6-TD-2 with the capacity of 12,000 horsepower makes it possible to reduce fuel consumption and is fitted with an electronic system. Manufacture of 125 mm weapons is starting. Things are a little more complicated with the complexes of control and aiming, but these questions are being successfully resolved by specialists at Ukrainian enterprises. All these measures will ensure serial manufacture of the T-84 on a 100-percent Ukrainian basis in 1995.

The present state of affairs in Ukraine points to an obvious need for integration into the world economic area, including that of military production. All the more so since the country's tank- manufacturing potential far exceeds the internal needs for re- arming. Mykhaylo

Borysyuk believes that the "Malyshev Plant" scientific-production association is open to business contacts through implementing joint projects, modernizing tank-building technologies, cooperating in the deliveries of systems, units, and parts, as well as other mutually advantageous forms of cooperation.

P.S. [by A. Starostin] On 1 September, People's Deputy of the Ukrainian SSR Charodyeyev, in an interview for the newspaper ZHYTTYA [Life], offered the editorial board a copy of a letter written by Mr. Skypalskyy, chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate at Ukraine's Armed Forces Headquarters, to Vice Prime Minister Yevtukhov, asking him to issue licenses for the sale of a large batch of assembled modern tanks to Pakistan. "Pakistan is an imperialist state with aggressive tendencies," stresses Mr. Charodyeyev, "a state that is situated near the borders under the jurisdiction of the CIS military alliance" (?!) [punctuation as received]. "We know that the United States protested against China selling a consignment of weapons to Pakistan," the deputy hinted transparently.

The editorial board expresses surprise about the statement by the Ukraine's people's deputy, because:

—it is not known whether the methods that Mr. Charodeyev used to obtain Ukraine military intelligence documents are legal. Moreover, the recorded offer to publish these documents is a violation of the recently adopted Law on Protecting State Secrets by the Mass Media;

—the paternal concern on the part of the people's deputy for the "borders of the CIS military alliance," that is to say, a military alliance of which Ukraine is not a member and one that it has no intention of joining (like NATO);

—there is no doubt that the letter by Charodyeyev and Marchenko to the Ukrainian president "On Visits by U.S. Intelligence Services to Closed Facilities on the Territory of Ukraine in the Company of Mr. Skypalskyy..." was not meant for settling personal accounts. It was rather an attempt to undermine the state's important external trade contacts;

—it is also of interest that the gentlemen's maneuver took place at the very time when, through the agency of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, misinformation was being disseminated throughout the world on the "availability of 'Stinger' missiles to Ukrainian-Tatar battalions in the Crimea," in other words, when an attempt was made to discredit Pakistan as a state friendly to Ukraine (and the world's only owner of the right to resell this type of missile).

The scandals around the relations between Pakistan and Ukraine also oddly coincide with the redeployment of a yet another "limited contingent" of Moscow troops closer to the Afghan border (this time to support the communist dictatorship in Tajikistan). The political campaign that can be seen here is also accompanied by specific measures for some political leaders on Ukraine's Supreme Council to enlist the services of Ukrainian veteran associations in the interests of the Supreme Soviet of another state (in the wars in Tajikistan and Abkhazia). Resorting to social demagogy, Mr. Charodyeyev continues the glorious Bolshevik tradition of brainwashing hired laborers, because while verbally fighting for "social justice," he personally used active methods for undermining export contracts and reducing the number of jobs in the country's unstable eastern regions. There is no doubt that "Charodyeyev's tank epic," just like any other red [Bolshevik] tomfoolery, will achieve the opposite result—it will only accelerate the rapprochement between national political forces and the nomenclature from Ukraine's military-industrial complex. The Command of the Ninth Russian Army in the Transcaucasus knows very well what this rapprochement means: The servicing of Ukrainian tanks has become the same factor of war in Nagorno-Karabakh as has the "Aliyev factor" or the "Iranian factor." The rapprochement between Ukraine's military-industrial complex and the national parties shows, in the example of Azerbaijan, the only way to reinforce the sphere of the state's influence.

$200 Million in Smuggled Cesium Seized in Kherson

PM2909102993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Extraordinary Situations Chronicle"]

[Text] Kherson—A container with radioactive substances has been seized by militia staffers at Kherson commercial port. The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry has announced that an inhabitant of Vinnitsa was trying to export radioactive cesium abroad. He announced he had bought it for $100,000. But experts believe that the 38 kg container with a radioactive substance has an estimated value of $200 million. INTERFAX has reported that those involved have been arrested.

National Affairs

Kravchuk's Decree on Reorganization of Administration

WS3009093793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] In order to avoid duplicating the financial-economic activities of the Ukrainian President's Administration and the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, the Ukrainian president has decreed:

To liquidate the department for issues of the Ukrainian President's Administration.

To charge a minister from the Cabinet of Ministers with coordination of activities of organizations and enterprises that secure the functioning of the Ukrainian President's Administration and the Cabinet of Ministers.

To establish an economic service department within the structure of the Ukrainian President's Administration.

To assume that the Ukrainian President's Administration is a legal heir to the rights and duties of the liquidated department.

The secretaries of the Ukrainian President's Administration will resolve all problems connected with the liquidation of the department for issues of the Ukrainian President's Administration, acting in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation.

Kravchuk Comments on Associate Membership in Economic Union

AU2909213693 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 28 Sep 93 p 2

["Ukraine's Statement Regarding the Agreement on the Creation of the Economic Union" signed by President Kravchuk in Moscow on 25 September]

[Text] Ukraine attaches great significance to intensifying comprehensive and mutually advantageous economic cooperation with all member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Of particular importance is the development and establishment of new rational economic ties between enterprises and the removal of artificial obstacles on the road toward their direct interaction.

Striving to further develop its relations, based on the principles of respect for the state sovereignty, equality, mutual advantage, and the renunciation of force, economic or any other methods of coercion that are contained in the constituent documents of the CIS, as well as on other generally recognized principles and norms of international law, Ukraine took part in preparing the Agreement on the Economic Union and was an initiator of the Declaration on the Principles of Economic Cooperation Among CIS Member States. The Ukrainian delegation did everything possible in order to make its constructive contribution to the elaboration of such a document, which would conform both to the aforementioned requirements and our legislative norms.

We are convinced that further development and strengthening of friendship, good-neighborly relations, and equal and mutually advantageous economic interaction within the framework of the CIS, interaction that does not interfere with normal ties with other states and international organizations, correspond to our peoples' fundamental national interests. Taking into account our internal legislation, Ukraine declares its intention to cooperate with the Economic Commonwealth as an associate member on the basis of a separate agreement in accordance with Article 30 of the Agreement on the Creation of the Economic Union.

[Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk

Moscow, 24 September 1993

Law Issued on Early Parliamentary, Presidential Elections

AU2909215193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 28 Sep 93 p 1

["Ukraine's Law on Early Elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council and Early Presidential Elections" signed by President Kravchuk in Kiev on 24 September]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council decrees as follows:

1. To cancel Ukraine's Supreme Council decree of 17 June 1993 "On Holding an All-Ukrainian Referendum on Confidence [No Confidence] in the President and Ukraine's Supreme Council."

2. To hold elections of Ukraine's Supreme Council deputies on Sunday, 27 March 1994.

3. To hold Ukrainian presidential elections, after the elections of Ukraine's people's deputies, on Sunday, 26 June 1994.

[Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk

Kiev, 24 September 1993

Further Ministerial Appointments Reported

LD3009010293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] On Wednesday, 29 September, President Kravchuk continued signing decrees reassigning cabinet ministers to their posts. In this way he appointed Ivan Dzyuba Ukraine's minister for culture; Petro Talanchuk to the post of education minister; Yuriy Kostenko as the minister for natural environment protection; Yuriy Spizhenko was re-appointed Ukraine's minister for health care; Valeriy Borzov was re-assigned to the post of Ukraine's minister for matters of youth and sports; Vilen Semenyuk was appointed Ukraine's minister of power industry and electrification; Heorhiy Hotovchyts was assigned to the post of Ukraine's minister for matters of population protection against Chernobyl nuclear accident consequences; Oleg Prozhyvalskyy was appointed Ukraine's minister for communications.

Other decreed assignations include Anatoliy Hlutchenko as minister of industry; Yuriy Serbin as minister for architecture and construction; Oleksandr Yemets as minister for nationalities and migration; Arkadiy Yershov as minister for social protection of Ukraine's population; Mykola Borysenko as minister of statistics; Mykhaylo Kaskevych as minister of labor; Ivan Dotsenko as minister of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Belarus

Government Approves Cooperation Agreement With Romania

WS2909131693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0605 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The government has issued a resolution approving a Belarusian-Romanian agreement on friendly relations and cooperation, and has submitted it to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet for ratification. This is not the first step in the establishment of good-neighborly bilateral relations. For example, Belarusian Transportation Minister Shkapich is currently in Romania. In addition to participating in a conference of East European transportation ministers, he is going to make contacts with Romanian transport entrepreneurs seeking out new ways of cooperation.

Kebich Views Economic Accord with Russia

LD2909154393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Report by L. Sviridov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sviridov] Belarus, a Slav neighbor of Russia, is once again in the grip of a fuel and energy crisis. However, at the recent summit meeting in Moscow with the Russian leadership, an accord was reached on 5 million tonnes of oil being delivered to Belarus for processing, 20 percent of which is to remain in the republic.

The Belarusian cabinet's decision to abolish licenses and quotas on the export of goods to Russia has had this positive effect.

[Begin recording] [Kebich] As far as customs are concerned, my deputy Bril and Secretary of State (Danilov) yesterday set about implementing our decision.

[Sviridov] That is, in the near future....

[Kebich, interrupting] In the near future we will resolve the issue of abolishing customs duties.

[Sviridov] And in principle we can regard this as the first real steps to create a real....

[Kebich, interrupting] A real economic alliance. [end recording]

Government Approves Current Privatization Program

PM2909142193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Mikhail Shimanskiy]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarusian Government has approved the program for privatizing state facilities under republic ownership for this year.

The primary sectors of privatization have been defined—they are light industry, the food industry, the timber industry, and construction. They also include enterprises for processing agricultural produce.

K. Romanovskiy, deputy [as published] of the republic State Committee for the Management of State Property, explains: "By the end of this year around 150 major enterprises plus 600 municipal service facilities should have been privatized under this program. It is planned this year to increase denationalized and privatized property to 10 percent of the total volume of fixed capital subject to a change in form of ownership."

This is not such a lot, but the majority of labor collectives simply do not have the money to buy out property. Those who leased enterprises beforehand, like, for instance, the major republic enterprise "Minskintertrans" which deals in international freight shipment, have made great gains. Its cost is 6.3 billion rubles, but the transport workers have earned almost half of this sum while operating on the lease system.

As Belarus does not have enough resources of its own for privatization, the republic is being actively aided in this matter by foreign organizations. For instance, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has allocated 980,000 ECU.

Presidium Prepares for 9 Nov Supreme Soviet Session

WS3009102893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Today, a session of Belarusian Supreme Soviet's Presidium is being held in Minsk. Participants are discussing the Supreme Soviet resolution of 15 September dealing with the fuel and energy situation as well as preparations for winter. Deputy Prime Minister Stanislav Bril delivered a report on the issue. Participants in the session assessed the government's efforts in this direction and adopted an appropriate Supreme Soviet resolution.

Preparations for the upcoming 13th Supreme Soviet session were also discussed. The session will convene on 9 November of this year, and its agenda will include some 60 items.

Biography, Views of New Economic Adviser Kovalyev

LD3009085393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Parliamentary Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich appointed a new economic advisor to himself on Tuesday. He is 46-year-old academic Mikhail Kovalyev of the Belarusian State University.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Kovalyev said the main directive of his work would be to draw up proposals for the country's strategy of transition from "socialism to capitalism".

In his view, radical reform must be carried out in four main directions to make the transitional period both short and effective.

1. The creation of a property-owning class which must be allowed to possess at least half of the nation's wealth.

2. The formation of financially-stable market infrastructures and implementation of flexible taxation policies.

3. The country's integration in the world economy through liberalizing foreign trade both with republics of the former Soviet Union and beyond.

4. Reorientation of the social security system for the poorest sections of the country's population.

Kovalyev disagrees with the Kebich government's approach to privatization which provides for a buy out of the state property instead of free distribution as proposed by himself.

Nor does he accept the IMF-proposed recommendations for the Belarusian economy because of their similarity to those offered for Poland, Argentina and other countries in which private property has always existed regardless of what regime was in power. But the absence of private property as such in Belarus may bring IMF effort to nought, Kovalyev believes.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Born in a Belarusian village in 1947 and a graduate of the Faculty of Mathematics of the Belarusian State University, Kovalyev worked his way from the post of junior researcher to that of head of the University's department for applied mathematics and information technology. In 1980-1981 Kovalyev carried out research into the management of discrete structures at Paris University and won a Doctor of Science degree from Kiev University in 1992. He also wrote a series of articles on the conversion program. Shushkevich was Kovalyev's scientific advisor and the two men have been friends for quite some time. Kovalyev's wife Tatyana is a lecturer in foreign literature and his daughter is a student at the same University. His hobby is gardening. The family owns a three-room flat in Minsk.

Popular Front Discusses Creation of Coalition Government

WS3009104693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] The regular session of the opposition faction of the Belarusian Popular Front [BPF] in the Supreme Soviet has discussed issues facing the upcoming session of the Belarusian legislature; namely, prospects for the creation of a coalition government. According to Syarhey Navumchyk, BPF coordinator in the Supreme Soviet, the final variant of the new government containing only 18 ministerial posts will be discussed at the political conference of opposition forces on 10 October.

Union Head Criticizes Legislature, Government

WS2909113093 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Uladzimir Hancharik, chairman of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation, by Syarhey Plytkevich; place and date not given—first paragraph is NARODNAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] Who could forget the dramatic character of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet discussion of the issue on holding an all-Republican referendum of confidence in the Supreme Soviet? Then, the majority voted against the referendum. However, at the same session, the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on holding new Supreme Soviet elections in March 1994. Will the deputies fulfill their promise? The latest events demonstrate that a lot of people doubt that the deputies will keep their word. Trade unions in the Republic have launched a campaign to make the deputies stick to their word. Anyway, we know too well the politicians of today, who make promises all too often and take them back what seems even more often. Does the Trade Union Federation believe that its campaign will achieve more tangible results than the Belarusian People's Front did during its best period? This question was put to Uladzimir Hancharik, chairman of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation, by Syarhey Plytkevich, the political correspondent for NARODNAYA GAZETA.

[Hancharik] Our polls have a dual task: First, we want to know the opinion of our trade union members; second, we want to win their support. The Supreme Soviet will find it more difficult to oppose definite working collectives than an abstract mass of the electorate. This is some of the data we collected from within the factories: Over 920 workers at Borisov factory "Hidrawzmatsnyalnik" and 949 workers of the glass works have signed our appeal. These are big collectives! Their opinion should be taken into account! Therefore, the Supreme Soviet should adhere to its declaration of October 1992. The latest events in Belarus convince us more and more that we have adopted the proper position. By the way, a range of political organizations have supported our stand. Only the Movement for Social Justice and Democracy has spoken against it, claiming that the Supreme Soviet has started "to show the first signs of sense." I can understand their position: They want to change Shushkevich, while, in our opinion, the entire political and economical course should be changed. The new Supreme Soviet will have to do this.

[Plytkevich] So, Uladzimir Ivanavich, we see that the trade unions are involved in political battles....

[Hancharik] Not completely. These latest polls represent a move within our trade union. We will speak about

political battles only when we receive the final results. Then, we will define and support our position.

[Plytkevich] Uladzimir Ivanavich, in the past there were party committees at each factory which were pursuing the policy of the ruling party. Currently, some people think that by starting your polls in the working collectives you have taken one step back: You are doing the same. Are you not afraid that representatives of other parties will also go to the factories? On the other hand, some politicians suspect that you are in agreement with the government and are pursuing this move with its consent.

[Hancharik] In my opinion, these suspicions are out of line. It is well known that the new legislature will elect both a new chairman and a new prime minister. Moreover, it is the legislature that is responsible for government policy and all its actions. We can see this confrontation between legislative and executive powers in Belarus and Russia. This is not normal. However, have a look at our current situation. An agreement that could encroach on our sovereignty had to be signed on 7 September in Moscow. Even now, when the meeting of CIS heads of state was moved, nobody knows what this agreement will look like. Our Supreme Soviet is on vacation, and I am stressing this fact—on vacation! Is this right?

[Plytkevich] Surely, it is not.

[Hancharik] Therefore, we demand that a Supreme Soviet session be convened and that deputies discuss the draft agreement and adopt a final decision on the issue. There are a lot of issues that need to be discussed. Some sources say that we will return to the ruble zone. However, who can guarantee that workers will receive their wages in a timely manner? The Belarusian "zaychiki" bank notes were introduced because we lacked Russian cash. Our government has always been boasting of the fact that Belarusian goods are cheaper than those in other CIS countries. However, we have looked through the statistics data: Since December 1991, Belarus has been second behind Ukraine in terms of the rate of price increases. What is waiting for us in the future? Therefore, the Belarusian legislature should work in this responsible period for Belarus. Anyway, our deputies are on vacation and when they gather in a month or two, they will claim: Shushkevich and Kebich have signed these agreements, they have nothing to do with us. Is that right?

We have analyzed the implementation of the state programs which were adopted by the government and the Supreme Soviet. Not one of them is being implemented to its full extent, nor have any profoundly affected the national economy. Moreover, the tendency of increasing chaos in science and industry is growing, and the socioeconomic situation of the population has grown acute of late. We have come to a conclusion: It is impossible to improve the life of the people based on the current approach to the economy. The course of economic reform, indeed the strategy and tactics of Supreme Soviet and government activity should be modified.

[Plytkevich] Nevertheless, you are in contact with the acting government and our interview started a little bit late because you had a telephone call from Vyacheslav Kebich.

[Hancharik] Indeed, we have a direct line to the government, and we discuss various issues. Judging by our mutual talks I would have to say that the government is responsive to the trade union's opinion and that we understand each other completely. However, if you look at the practical side of things, everything is different....

As for the conversation today, we discussed the Belarusian Government's memorandums to the IMF and World Bank. These texts are published in the NATIONAL ECONOMICAL NEWSPAPER. I do not know how they appeared in this newspaper, however, it appears that our government has shown all its cards. We have seen that its policy is not independent but subordinated to the demands of these international financial organs. Cuts in social programs are planned, including payments to families with children. Prices for bread and municipal services will go up. I have warned Vyacheslav Francevich that we will express our unwillingness to go along with this policy because the people's living standard is dropping constantly and the government is taking no measures to stimulate production. We are heading toward a deadlock.

[Plytkevich] What is the way out of this predicament?

[Hancharik] First, all economic barriers between Belarus and other CIS countries should be eliminated. Second, we will be able to stimulate production only if we change the current tax policy. Third, it is necessary to reevaluate all the international contracts and agreements which should be beneficial to Belarus and not to separate commercial structures. Fourth, we should continue the process of privatization. I can continue, though the most important is that the government and the Supreme Soviet should become legislative and executive powers of a truly independent state. We do not see this today: Our government is going different ways while the people are not aware of what awaits them ahead. Therefore, we have adopted a decision: This cannot be continued. If the acting leaders are not able to alleviate the predicament, then new people should be called upon to do the job. The Belarusian people will choose those people in March 1994.

Moldova

Second Attempt To Continue Parliament Session Fails

AU2909121793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Report by Nicolae Mircea Nastase from Chisinau]

[Text] The session of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova could not be resumed today either, owing to lack of quorum. The speaker of the law-making body, Mr. Petru Lucinschi, announced that after he had consulted yesterday with the heads of the parliamentary factions, they came to the conclusion that they should make joint efforts to find a solution to the benefit of the whole society and that such talks may also result in a consensus allowing for the continuation of the current parliament session. However, the various parliamentary factions should examine more closely the disputed issues, Lucinschi said, adding that he had suggested that they should discuss them over the coming days, as the law-making body will resume session on Wednesday, 7 October. By that time the necessary consensus to surmount the current crisis and continue the session will be hopefully reached, said Lucinschi.

Deputy Valeriu Matei expressed his discontent over the fact that Lucinschi did not mention who exactly is to be blamed for the fact that the law-making body could not resume work. In Matei's opinion Parliament actually is in no crisis at all, but rather being boycotted, which is also proved by the fact that even many of the presidium members were also absent today.

Snegur Meets CIS Agroindustrial Trade Union Group

AU3009074193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 28/9/1993—President Mircea Snegur had today a meeting with members of the Coordinating Council of Agro-Industrial Trade Unions of CIS. The meeting examined the social-political situation in Moldova. Special stresses were made on the questions regarding the creation of the economic union. In the opinion of the president the "signed agreement does not cut off the independence of Moldova. Moreover, signing this agreement we will be able to solve problems concerning the sale of products, excises, custom duties which block the economic reforms." Referring to relations with the Moldovan Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Mircea Snegur called them satisfactory. The approach of two blocks—centrists and opposition—is, according to Snegur, natural for a state which promotes democratic reforms.

Snegur Founds Secretariat for Foreign Cooperation

AU2909153393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] chisinau, BASAPRESS 28/9/1993—President Mircea Snegur signed today the decree "On the Creation of Secretariats for Economic Cooperation of Moldova with other States," states the communique of the Presidential Press Service. "In order to coordinate the activities of bodies of the state administration and local self-administration to guarantee the economic interests of Moldova with other states," President Snegur decreed to create a Secretariat for problems of economic cooperation with Romania and other Western states. The decree also stipulates the creation of a secretariat for problems of economic cooperation with CIS states. According to the decree, the government should entitle the heads of these secretariats and approve the status of these secretariats.

Democratic Factions Debate New Constitution Issues

AU3009091893 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/9/1993—Factions of democratic orientation consider that in spite of many attempts to demonstrate the weakness of the legislative power, ways out of crisis must be found only in the Parliament during the debates on a new Constitution. The Parliament must avoid any anti-constitutional interferences from abroad as those of Moscow. This opinion came from deputy Ion Hadarca at a press conference organized today by representatives of the Christian Democratic People's Front [FPCD], Congress of Intelligentsia, the Democratic Party [DP], and Democratic Labor Parties. Gheorghe Ghimpu, leader of the DP, said that since deputies of the Agrarian Party are going to win at the future elections they try their best to dissolve the Parliament. Communists who are going to organize an alliance with socialists have the same opinion. Ghimpu stressed that the referendum demanded by some Parliamentary fractions is required but in future it is necessary to create a legislative body which will approve a legislation concerning elections and amendments in Constitution. The PDM leader, deputy Alexandru Arseni, stated that the crisis of legislative power just confirms the weakness of the Parliamentary Presidium to make the seven factions cooperate. He underlined that pushing in debates the question on ratifying the CIS Agreement "will be another blow and this time a fatal one." Participants at the conference argued that the Parliament had already expressed its attitude towards CIS and debating on ratifying the Economic Union's Agreement is inadmissible. The representative of FPCD, deputy Valentin Dolganiuc asserted that the Parliamentary Speaker had hurried to declare that he reached necessary compromises to continue the session.

FPCD Sees Economic Union as Step To Restore USSR

AU3009091693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 28/9/1993—The CIS Economic Union created in Moscow on 24 September 1993 is the first step towards restoring the Soviet empire, states the Declaration of the Christian Democratic People's Front of Moldova [FPCD]. Authors of the Declaration consider that the provisions of this union do not allow Moldova promote its own course of independent

economic policy and denies the Declaration of Independence of 27 August 1991. "Ignoring the parliament's decision, the president of republic committed an anti-constitutional act which could not be justified by the so-called recommendation of the Parliamentary Presidium. The Moldovan leadership promotes neo-colonist policy and serves the imperial interests of Russia," argues the declaration signed by Iurie Rosca, the president of the FPCD Executive Staff.

Agriculture Ministry Official on Privatization Rate

AU2909202493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/9/1993—Twenty eight percent of the total volume of animal products in Moldova is produced by the private sector, stated Ion Urzica, Chief of the Department of the Animal Sector Development from the Ministry of Agriculture. During the last five years, the volume of animal products sold by farmers increased approximately twice. The quoted source considers that this tendency will be kept and in 1993 the private sector will reach 30 percent. Farmers obtained in private ownership approximately 316,000 hectars of lands and picked up 500,000-600,000 tons of cereals as reward, indicated Urzica. According to statistics the amount of breeding stock in private sector increased by 45,000 and in Moldova 160 cooperatives, 70 limited companies, and 2,400 farms are registered. In the opinion of experts in privatization the increase is reached mostly by farmers' initiative but not by transformation of state property into private one.

'Reform Party' Established, Elects Leadership

AU3009074793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/9/1993—Today, the Moldovan Ministry of Justice registered with No. 26 the Reform Party (PR). The PR declares to be a Parliamentary political organization of the right center. The party will elaborate and promote the basic reforms in society to protect the individual rights and freedom as well as the private initiative in the market economy. The party's communique made today states that the party's founders—businessman, politicians, scientists of various nationalities—decided to create a party to represent the middle class. "The Reform Party is for the real independence of Moldova which is an unitary, independent and indivisible state with citizens living in peace regardless to their ethnic," states the communique. PR will propose the society its own program of transition to the market economy. The party is for the revision of the State program of privatization. PR considers that the privatization with patrimonial vouches seems to be democratic, but economically it is inefficient. The party is for legalizing the right on land private ownership. The consolidation of middle class guarantees a democratic society. The Party leader is Anatol Salaru and its chairman is Stefan Gorda. They were elected by the Conference of constitution of the Reform Party on September 5th, 1993.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Building Socially Oriented Economy

LD2909132793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1231 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Almaty September 29 TASS—"We are advancing neither to socialism nor capitalism. We are building up a socially-oriented market economy. We shall leave in our constitution such guarantees as the people's right to free medical service, education, and pensions," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said here on Tuesday, taking the floor at a meeting with leaders of the Semipalatinsk region and managers of local industrial enterprises of all forms of property. "Only given tranquil conditions and confidence in our future, confidence in social stability, shall we be able to live through the current difficult transitional period, to carry out the reforms that we have launched," he added.

"Political sovereignty is worth nothing without economic sovereignty," Nazarbayev stated. "The economy must serve primarily the republic's domestic requirements. Strong integrational ties and abolition of barriers and duties levied on enterprises are necessary for the normal functioning of the national economy. The achievement of these goals shall be conduced by the Economic Union Treaty signed in Moscow the other day by most CIS countries," Nazarbayev believes.

"Kazakhstan has also concluded an agreement with Russia to pool their monetary systems. Some people regard this as an infringement on the republic's independence. But certain concessions have to be made for the sake of complete sovereignty in the future," he stated.

Mitterrand Visit Termed 'Extremely Productive'

PM2909124593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev]

[Text] Almaty—The French president's official visit to Kazakhstan was short but extremely productive, not only on the political but also on the economic front. The 60 or so representatives of French business circles who arrived together with F. Mitterrand in Almaty concluded several major contracts with Kazakhstani partners, and the state in the person of the president underwrote these deals with credit facilities.

It is a question of ensuring against the so-called "political risk," Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed at a press conference devoted to the results of the visit. French companies' and state enterprises' investments in Kazakhstan's economy are quite substantial and already exceed the volume of state credits. For example, Elf Aquitaine, which recently started prospecting for oil and gas deposits in Aktyubinsk Oblast and is also committed to the subsequent extraction of minerals, is contracted to invest more than 1 billion French francs [Fr] in this enterprise. Another company, Total, is participating in a major consortium to study reserves and drill for oil on the Caspian Sea shelf. Under the project, a deposit will be developed there "many times greater than the Tengiz field" where, as is well known, the U.S. Chevron corporation is operating.

Such well-known French firms, companies, and banks as Thomson, Bouygues, Sucres et Denrees, Credit Commercial de France, SPI Batignole, and others, are also investing, or are prepared to invest, considerable sums in Kazakhstan's economy. France has decided to encourage this business activity with a financial guarantee—albeit a cautious one in the initial stages. But, as Francois Mitterrand made clear, "the Fr3 million will grow, I think, as fruitful cooperation between French and Kazakhstani business develops."

What constitutes the main economic interest in Kazakhstan for France: natural resources? Mitterrand answered this question from your correspondent extremely laconically: Everything! Yes, of course, oil, gas, copper, the whole Periodic Table contained in the ground beneath Kazakhstan, including precious and rare-earth metals and uranium ores. But, above all, the French president intimated, France's interest in Kazakhstan is the state itself, with its great potential for development, occupying as it does a special position in the center of the Eurasian continent, a state whose paths of development and political reference points coincide with France's positions.

In his turn the Kazakhstani president, touching on the question of international aid, thanked his French colleague for supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to save the Aral Sea and for sending aid to people who found themselves in this zone of monstrous ecological catastrophe. He is grateful also for understanding of Kazakhstan's position regarding nuclear weapons. It is sufficiently straightforward: Kazakhstan signed, and was the first in the CIS to ratify, the START-I treaty, has signed the Lisbon protocol, and intends to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Defense Minister Meets With Chinese Ambassador

LD2909223393 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov met Chinese Ambassador Chen Di [name as heard] at his request today. The ambassador informed the minister about the economic and political situation in China and about his country's foreign policy. A wish was expressed to further develop bilateral relations, in particular between the military of the two countries.

The forthcoming visit of President Nazarbayev to China in the second half of October was touched upon as another reason to develop fruitful relations between the countries.

Tajikistan

* Opposition Commander Predicts Attacks on Dushanbe

93P50304A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 8

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—Tajik opposition commander ('Abdallah Bukhari) yesterday told AL-HAYAH that the mujahiddin promise widespread attacks on most of the major cities, including sections of the capital, Dushanbe.

The Tajik commander, whose followers' forces are concentrated east of Dushanbe, added that thousands of trained Tajik mujahiddin are preparing to launch the attacks, especially since they have received sufficient arms and ammunition.

Asked how the mujahidin penetrated the Afghan-Tajik border, Bukhari—who returned day before yesterday from Tajikistan—said, "The mujahiddin pay money to the Russian border guards to allow them to pass; when this is impossible, an armed confrontation occurs."

Peacekeeping Troops To Number 25,000 by 1 Oct

LD3009032093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The collective peacekeeping forces, which are to arrive by 1 October in their deployment areas in Tajikistan, will number 25,000 persons. Russian officers and men to serve in the peacekeeping forces will be selected only on a voluntary basis. This was stated by their commander, Lieutenant-General [general-polkovnik] Boris Pyankov. The Russian 201st Motorized Infantry Division, already stationed in Tajikistan, has already been assigned to the peacekeeping forces together with some other units and subunits.

Abdullodzhanov Warns of Tough Economic Times Coming

LD2909193593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] According to Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, in the next 5 years the people of Tajikistan "will have to think literally about survival, not about raising their living standards." This will be a time of "stringent economic sanctions," he told a press conference on Wednesday.

At present Tajikistan's debt surpasses $200 Mn [million], the prime minister said. According to him, the level of production in the country continues to "fall rapidly". Tajikistan has to spend 28 percent of its revenues on maintaining stability within the country.

According to the prime minister, this process can be halted only next August, provided the conditions are favorable.

Participants in the latest CIS summit held in Moscow agreed to grant Tajikistan, as an exception, most favored nation status in the newly formed Economic Union, Abdullojanov told newsmen. According to him, such status will be in effect for 2 to 3 years. Besides, the CIS leaders agreed to form a fund of economic aid to Tajikistan, he said.

According to Abdullodzhanov, the recent trip to Tyumen Region by Tajik officials made it possible to sign, with the participation of Russia's Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, direct agreements with the regional leadership which provide for supplying Tajikistan with 900,000 tons of crude oil. These direct agreements, he said, had already been endorsed in Moscow by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Besides, an agreement had been reached in Moscow on replacing the old ruble banknotes in circulation in Tajikistan with new ones, the premier said. According to him, the exchange will evidently take place in November.

* Tajik Democratic Movement Leader Interviewed

93LA0237D London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 93 p 12

[Interview with Democratic Movement of Tajikistan leader Dowlat Khodanzar, by Mostowfi; place and date not given]

[Text] The government of Khodanazar, the most prominent figure in the Democratic Movement of Tajikistan, was born in the year 1944 in Kharugh to citizens of Badakhshan in the south of Tajikistan. He completed his studies at the Moscow Cinematography Institute and in the year 1990 he was chosen as president of the Union of Cinematographers of the Soviet Union, and is still president of the Confederation of Cinematographer Unions (former Soviet Union).

Khodanazar began his political activities in the year 1989 by participating in the elections to the People's Congress of the Soviet Union, and he went to this congress as a representative of the people of Badakhshan. Considered one of the first activists in the democratic political movements of Tajikistan, he took part in the first round of elections for president of the republic of Tajikistan, but was defeated by Rahman Nabiov (the former president of the republic).

Dowlat Khodanazar is married and the father of two children, ages 18 and 7. He currently lives in Moscow.

[Mostowfi] In the last two years you have had an eventful life full of ups and downs, which began with your struggles in the 1991 election for president of the republic and has led to the recent slaughters and the communist return to power. Apparently these events are continuing. We begin with the elections for president of the republic. How do you explain your defeat in these elections?

[Khodanazar] If Nabiov had not nominated himself for this election, I would not have taken part. Nabiov is affiliated with a clan in north Tajikistan, which has held power for the last 50 years. I proposed that in order to preserve Tajikistan's unity, someone else from the north should be nominated, and we would all rally around him. Unfortunately, Nabiov paid no attention to my proposal. Concerning the defeat however, I must say that many violations of the law took place against which I protested at that time. However, the pressure was so great that these protests had no effect.

[Mostowfi] Why was there no political stability in Tajikistan after the elections?

[Khodanzar] After the elections I returned to Moscow, but the democratic forces there had announced their willingness to cooperate with the new government. However, the Nabiov clan did not want to give up its monopoly. They put great pressure on the opposition forces. For example, they prosecuted newspaper reporters and imprisoned the mayor of Dushanbe, who was a democrat.

[Mostowfi] Who were the democratic forces in Tajikistan, and how much power did they have?

[Khodanzar] In the democratic forces, first there was the Rastakhiz party, which worked to preserve the language and national traditions. You know that in Tajikistan there was a campaign against the Persian language. Not only in official meetings, but also in unofficial meetings, everyone spoke Russian. The Rastakhiz party sought to keep alive the Tajik Persian language and local customs. Then there was the democratic party, which looked to the West. There were also some communists among them. Within the communist party of Tajikistan are several parties. One must realize that all those who were or are members of this party are not really communists, but became party members to gain employment and social position. Many of them were part of the democratic forces. Finally there was the Islamic Movement Party, which worked for the freedom of religion and religious practices and to keep Islamic traditions alive in Tajikistan.

[Mostowfi] For those of us watching from the outside, the spread of the Islamic Movement Party was faster and more profound than the other parties. Is this true?

[Khodanzar] More reports were published in the Western media about the Islamic Movement Party than about other groups.

[Mostowfi] Were Islamic forces the main component of the demonstrations in Dushanbe?

[Khodanzar] No one wants to take into account that over a period of 50 years one group was in power, routing the entire nation's wealth to one place, so that today the situation in the south of Tajikistan is ruined compared to that of the north part of that country. In these movements that emerged, the oppressed people sought to establish justice in the land of Tajikistan. That is, they left no place for ideological issues. For every ruble spent on one person in Badakhshan, 116 rubles is spent in the north in Khajand. In 1990 I led a group from the Supreme Soviet to visit Badakhshan. Two members of the delegation cried about the destitute condition of the people.

In 50 years, the general secretary of the communist party, which is considered part of the president of the country's tutelage system, the chief of the Council of Ministers and ministers and the regional chiefs were all from Khajand, and this is considered a unique situation for the entire Soviet Union. Power is still in the hands of those same people.

[Mostowfi] What you are saying indicates that the essential conflict in Tajikistan is regional conflict between north and south, not ideological conflict.

[Khodanzar] The ordinary people who were in the Islamic Movement Party wanted to change their lives.

[Mostowfi] Why did the people from Kulabi, which is also in the south, support the people in the north?

[Khodanzar] This is another story. Around 1971 or 1972 they sent someone from Khanjad to Kulab as first secretary of the province communist party. Three days after his arrival, the Kulabis killed him, that is, his body was found in the hotel where he was staying. After that, under the guidance of the KGB, the people from Khajand adopted another policy and began sowing discord among the Kulabis and their allies to keep them from achieving unity.

[Mostowfi] Didn't the Islamists in Tajikistan want to establish an Islamic republic like Iran and to establish Islamic law?

[Khodanzar] There were those in their ranks who wanted this, but there are people in France and America who want to establish a fascist regime. Most of the mullas in Tajikistan, however, were opposed to the Islamic Party Movement and did not want to mix religion with politics.

[Mostowfi] Such as Mr. Turjanzadeh?

[Khodanzar] Turjanzadeh himself mixed religion and politics by being a member of parliament, but I am thinking of the mullas in the villages. They generally did not want to get involved in politics.

[Mostowfi] Despite all this, weren't the most important Islamic forces in the recent changes in Tajikistan from the Islamic Movement Party?

[Khodanzar] Those who come from the rural areas wear local attire. For this reason, when foreign observers saw the people with that clothing and the beards, they said they were all from the Islamic Movement Party. From my point of view, religion must be separated from the side issues. I don't know of anyone in the history of the world who won a fight with religion. Religion must be kept separate from the extremism that operates under the cover of religion. Extremism must be opposed. There is also extremism in the movements that exist in Iran, but what do the Sunnis, the Sunnis of Tajikistan, have to do with the governing structure in Iran? The Isma'ilis have existed in my country for 1,000 years. Iran's greatest philosopher, Naser Khosrow, started this sect there. In the elections, all of these people have shown what they are seeking. Why have they covered the faces of all the Tajik people with chadors? Today it is because of the slaughter that has taken place in this land that the Islamic extremism has appeared.

[Mostowfi] It appears that in Tajikistan there were three major trends, the communists, the Islamists, and the democrats. You democrats have united with the Islamists to oppose the communists. Have you considered the experience of the Iranian revolution, where after coming to power the Islamists removed their allies from political affairs one after the other?

[Khodanzar] In Tajikistan there is no place for an Islamic government. Conditions have changed completely since the year 1917. The British and the Americans both speak the same language, but they are not one nation. It is true that we Tajiks and you Iranians both speak the same language, but the environment and society in Tajikistan are completely different from that in Iran. The people of Tajikistan are also very different from the Tajiks of Afghanistan. In large parts of Tajikistan the people do not want the women to be covered with chadors, they do not want to live by religious law, but they want freedom of religion. In my view it is not right to equate this with that environment that exists in Iran.

[Mostowfi] What was the role and policy of the Iranian Government in the recent changes in Tajikistan?

[Khodanzar] No representative from Iran was in contact with me. I do not know whether or not they had contact with others.

[Mostowfi] Has a national army been formed in Tajikistan?

[Khodanzar] There are Tajiks in the army, but the makeup of the army is the same as it was before.

[Mostowfi] In view of the role of the army in putting down the opposition, can one conclude that what happened in Tajikistan was really the policy of Russia?

[Khodanzar] Russia and Uzbekistan.

[Mostowfi] What is Uzbekistan's role today in Central Asia?

[Khodanzar] There Uzbekistan considers itself the protector and the savior of Western civilization against Islam.

In the West, and especially from the Iranians, I hear a lot of anxiety expressed about the Islamic movement in Tajikistan. There are Iranians who really don't even know that there is a Tajikistan, a country whose people speak Persian, the country that is the wellspring of Persian literature. I think 95 percent of the Iranians do not have a clear idea about Tajikistan at all and do not understand that country. Concerning the Islamic movement, they have the idea that has been spread by the Islamic Government of Iran. I must say that according to what the Iranians say and feel, the shadow of Iran has fallen over Tajikistan and the Tajiks are awash in blood. The Iranians of the west, without knowing about the Islam of Tajikistan, have presented the image that they have seen in Iran, and in this way the intellectual background for all this destruction in Tajikistan was unwittingly created. In Tajikistan ordinary people did not fight with one another, but they brought conflict from above and frightened the people in order to establish an extraordinary situation so they could kill all the opposition. In this regard there was no difference between Nabiov and Milosovich.

[Mostowfi] In short, are you saying that there is no danger of Islamic fundamentalism in Tajikistan?

[Khodanzar] There is another danger, and that is that for the first time in a land whose people are Muslim there might emerge a government based on democratic laws and fundamentals. We do not support the reforms of Gorbachev, who wanted to establish democracy from above. Rather, we support our national past, our Zoroastrian roots, which are very much alive in Tajikistan. We wanted to establish a Tajik democracy, peculiar to these people. We do not want the lifeless form and structure of a Western democracy. We want to find a democracy that is intellectually close to the people so that our democracy will not be temporary, but fundamental and national.

When the leaders of the neighboring republics establish close relations with their own Islamists and when they send thousands of people by air on the pilgrimage to Mecca, no one says that there is a danger of fundamentalism, but when we wanted to find intellectual common ground and cooperation with our own Islamists, everyone screamed to the skies.

[Mostowfi] Last week in the Russian parliament the concern was expressed that increased Russian military intervention in Tajikistan could create a second Afghanistan for the Russians. Do you confirm these concerns?

[Khodanzar] If a way to peace is not found in Tajikistan as soon as possible, the war could last a long time. The two sides must negotiate their issues at the table. The government must not insist on completely destroying its

opponents, and the opponents must not make it a condition that the government be disbanded. The problems in Tajikistan cannot be solved by war.

[Mostowfi] In view of what is being said about direct Russian intervention in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, can Tajikistan be a completely independent country again?

[Khodanzar] The current government of Tajikistan does not have a particle of independence. I can even say that Tajikistan was more independent under the former Soviet Union than it is today.

[Mostowfi] Concerning the cooperation of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan led by Mr. Hekmatyar, whose political ideas are known to you, what do you say to those Islamists of Tajikistan who want to engage in armed struggle?

[Khodanzar] These Tajik refugees in Afghanistan have no other choice. They cannot live in Afghanistan. One of them told a Russian news correspondent that he had taken up arms to go to Tajikistan and die. The Tajiks did not get into this situation by their own choice.

[Mostowfi] What do you expect of Iranians living outside the country?

[Khodanzar] I call upon Iranians living in Europe and America not to forget their Tajik brothers and sisters, just as they struggled for human rights in Iran, and especially to use their relations with international authorities, the press, and the leaders of the European nations and America to pressure the governments of Russia and Uzbekistan to free Tajik political prisoners.

Today thousands of people are in the prisons of Tajikistan and among them I could especially mention the great contemporary poet Bazar Saber and Jom'ebay Tiazov.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Visits NATO Headquarters in Brussels

LD2909215793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2139 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels September 30 TASS—President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov, currently on a an official visit to Belgium, visited the NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday. Niyazov met NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner and addressed permanent representatives of NATO member states.

Upon completion of the meeting Woerner told journalists that during the first visit of the Turkmen leader to NATO the sides exchanged opinions on the situation in the republic and the situation in the Central Asian region on the whole.

NATO officials expressed their interest in maintaining stability in this region. Woerner pointed out that Turkmenistan was one of NATO's partners in the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation and that they agreed to step up contacts under conditions of respect for sovereignty.

For his part, Niyazov expressed satisfaction in connection with the fact that Turkmenistan's positions were received by NATO leaders with understanding. Niyazov pointed out that Turkmenistan's foreign policy was based on neutrality and not joining blocs or military alliances. At the same time Niyazov said that Turkmenistan would welcome NATO's assistance in the creation of national armed forces.

For his part, NATO secretary general said that NATO was prepared to render such assistance to Turkmenistan.

Asked about recent developments in Moscow, the Turkmen president expressed confidence that the Russian leadership would successfully resolve current problems. The most important thing is to not to slow down the pace of reforms and preserve equal cooperation between independent states formed after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, Niyazov said.

Cooperation Pact Prepared With Afghanistan, Pakistan

PM3009080193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 93 First Edition p 6

[Report from ITAR-TASS, LOGOTIP-KP column]

[Text] Groups of experts from the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have completed work on coordinating the draft of an exceedingly important agreement for the three countries on long-term economic cooperation.

The document, which the leaders of the neighboring states plan to sign in Ashgabat in October, envisages the implementation of a number of major projects which will contribute to the sides' economic integration. In particular, Turkmenistan will take it upon itself to meet a large part of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's electricity needs. The electricity is to be supplied by a power transmission line more than 1,000 km long, stretching across Afghan territory. The plan to construct a gas pipeline to the Pakistani port of Karachi, whence liquefied gas is sent by tanker to countries in Europe and the East, promises to bring Turkmenistan major benefits. And the creation of a common railroad will create a direct route for commodities and raw materials to the shores of the Arabian Sea.

Armenia

Nakhichevan Border Problems Discussed With Azerbaijanis

NC2909203493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service has reported that gunmen in Sadarak [in Nakhichevan] opened automatic weapons fire on the defensive positions at Yeraskhavan last night. There were no casualties. No serious incidents have been observed in the other sectors of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border since last night. The situation has remained relatively calm.

The press service has also reported that the plenipotentiary representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani military met on the Idzhevanskiy-Kazakhskiy border on 28 September. The meeting was held as part of the agreement signed on 20 September that called for a meeting on 28 September to discuss a cease-fire supervision mechanism along the Noyemberyanskiy-Kazakhskiy and Krasnoselskiy-Kedabekskiy borders.

The sides exchanged information on incidents that took place on the days before the meeting and evaluated the current situation.

It was noted that it has not yet been possible to prevent border incidents. Hence, the sides agreed to increase the control over the military units deployed along the borders.

The Azerbaijani side's proposal to set up joint border posts was considered untimely under the present conditions. The sides agreed that maintaining communication between the military representatives could be the sole mechanism at present for the supervision of the cease-fire. The sides agreed to constantly exchange information and meet again, if necessary.

Defense Minister Discusses CFE With Russian Envoy

NC2909195093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sargisyan received Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin on 28 September. The ambassador congratulated him on his appointment as defense minister. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that matters concerning the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE] were discussed during the meeting.

The Armenian defense minister also received U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Harry Gilmore today, 29 September.

Parliament Votes Against Self-Dissolution

MK2909153493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[From the "NEGA Reports" column] [Text] Armenia's parliament came close to dissolving itself on 27 September. Independent deputy Ferdinand Kazaryan proposed that this question be included on the agenda. In his opinion, a total lack of working discipline and the deputies' inattention to their duties result in the problem of a lack of quorum and makes it impossible for the current Supreme Council to adequately perform its duty. Kazaryan also leveled sharp criticism at the Supreme Council Presidium, which proves unable to ensure normal work. In the parliamentarian's opinion, elections for a new legislative body should be held in Armenia as early as March 1994. It is interesting to note that when this proposal was made, 124 deputies were present in the parliamentary chamber. This is usual for the Armenian parliament. Out of 124 deputies, 93 voted for dissolution, 12 abstained, and 19 were opposed. Even if the proposal was not accepted, it became patently clear that more than a third of Armenian parliamentarians assess their own performance and the potential of the present composition of the republic's Supreme Council extremely negatively. At the same time, parliament ratified the CIS interstate agreement "On the Rules of Visa Free Movement of Citizens Across the Territory of Commonwealth Countries." This was done despite bitter opposition from representatives of the "Dashnak Tsutyun" party faction, which maintained that this decision would make it possible for inhabitants of Azerbaijan to enter Armenia without restriction.

Former Karabakh Communist Leader Released From Prison

NC3009090193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] SNARK learned that former First Secretary of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Party Committee Boris Gevorgov has been released from prison on instructions from Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev.

In detaining Gevorgov, the former leadership of the People's Front intended to try him for having allegedly pursued an anti- Azerbaijan policy in Karabakh for the last 15 years. The Azerbaijani People's Front was making similar accusations against Geydar Aliyev.

However, it is no secret that on the instructions of Baku, Gevorgov was artificially Azerbaijanizing the Armenian-populated autonomous oblast, and during his rule the Armenian population in the oblast fell by 20 percent. Any interest in Armenian culture or history was regarded as a manifestation of nationalism.

At present the former leader of the Karabakh communists is in Baku and is even giving advice to Aliyev on how to deal with some of whose present Karabakh leaders he knows well.

Natural Gas Supplies Resume After 10-Day Break

LD2909221993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Supplies of natural gas to Armenia have been resumed after a ten-day interval. The interval was caused by repair works at the pipeline section in Uzbekistan.

As Armenia's Deputy Premier Vigen Chitechyan told a press conference on Tuesday, now the country gets 2.5 million cubic meters of natural gas a day. The gas is spent largely on electricity production. The electricity is supplied to flats for 2 or 3 hours a day.

Azerbaijan

Parliament Ratifies Documents on Joining CIS

NC2909182093 Baku TURAN in English 1503 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 29 (TURAN)—Today Milli Majlis [National Assembly] has started its activity. The parliament will discuss the results of Azerbaijani delegation's visit to Moscow September 24-26 1993.

As it is known at the conference of the heads of state-members of the CIS Geydar Aliyev has signed the documents on entering of Azerbaijan into the Commonwealth and also the charter of the CIS, agreement on economic union and pact on collective security. Moreover, in the course of his Moscow's visit Geydar Aliyev held negotiations with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan concerned settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

Milli Majlis has ratified all the documents signed by G. Aliyev legitimating this was Azerbaijan's entering into the CIS.

Milli Majlis has also approved the talks of G. Aliyev with L. Ter-Petrosyan.

G. Aliyev stressed that Azerbaijan's entering into the CIS infringe the interests of Azerbaijan by no means.

Further on Ratification

NC3009082993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1630 GMT 29 Sep

[Text] The National Assembly held its regular session today. Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev suggested that the following be included on the agenda of the session:

1. The participation of the official delegation of the Azerbaijan Republic in the high-level meeting of the CIS heads of state on 24 September.

2. The ratification of the CIS Charter signed by Azerbaijan.

3. The ratification of Azerbaijan's accession to the CIS collective security treaty.

4. The ratification of the agreement on Azerbaijan's accession to the economic alliance.

Aliyev then proposed that matters pertaining to his talks with the Armenian president in Moscow and to the necessity of adjusting the budget presented by the Supreme Soviet Economic Commission to the rate of inflation should also be discussed.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet said that lately certain mass media are attempting to create the idea that citizens are allegedly being imprisoned for their political views. Such reports cannot be confirmed by the official organs. He proposed that the session should hear reports from the first deputy prosecutor-general, interior, and security ministers.

The National Assembly adopted the agenda. In view of the interconnectedness of the first four issues on the agenda, Aliyev stated that Azerbaijan's accession to CIS was welcomed by the leaders of the CIS countries, and during the Moscow meeting the CIS leaders said that they know of no reason why Azerbaijan should not join the CIS. In reiterating the urgency of Azerbaijan's accession to the CIS, Aliyev said that the Republic stands to (?gain) from CIS membership, and henceforth it will be possible to solve economic and collective security issues and those of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. Geydar Aliyev stressed that accession to the CIS in no way means Azerbaijan's losing its independence. Next, Geydar Aliyev replied to deputies' questions.

Following a debate, the decisions on the first four points on the agenda were put to the vote separately and were adopted.

Geydar Aliyev briefed the session on his talks with Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan in Moscow, and replied to deputies' questions. Aliyev said that there was no talk on Nagorno-Karabakh's status during the meeting, and that he is guided by the principle of ensuring the Republic's territorial integrity and independence.

Next, the session discussed the need to adjust the budget to the level of inflation, and adopted an appropriate decision.

The session also heard reports from the interior and security ministers and from the prosecutor-general.

The Republic's Prosecutor-General Ali Omerov was elected a member of the National Assembly.

Finally, Geydar Aliyev summed up the work of the National Assembly.

Measures on Joining CIS Detailed

NC2909182193 Baku TURAN in English 1503 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 29 (TURAN)—The Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan passed a decree on implementation of the intergovernmental agreement with the Russian Federation on supplies of the main productions on equivalent basis during January-August 1993.

The intergovernmental agreement envisages the supply of productions of the value of [$]496 US on the equivalent basis. This operation will be free of customs and other taxes.

The Cabinet stresses, that because of the not full supplies of productions by ministries, companies, organizations on clearing this September, the Ministry of Material Resources run into debt of 7.6 million US the federal corporations roscontract [word as received]. The average fulfillment of the plan of supplies in the branches of the economy of the Republic made 5 per cent.

The Cabinet charged the Ministry of Economy and Material Resources with working out in a week's term a schedule of supplies of production to Russia on clearing. The state oil company (Socar) was charged with the immediate fixing a price of the raw oil from Russia to the Ministry of Material Resources aiming at its timely supply to the producers.

The Customs Committee and Azerbaijani Department of Railroads was charged with the first and foremost official registration, shipping and allotting of transportation measures on the basis of distributive documents of the Ministry of Material Resources.

Aliyev: Joining CIS Strengthens Independence

LD2909225393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevinj Abdullayeva]

[Text] Baku September 29 TASS—"I am positive that being a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Azerbaijan will not only preserve its independence but strengthen it", Azeri Acting President Geydar Aliyev told a session of the republican parliament today.

Aliyev said that upon reviewing the situation, he came to conclusion that "Azerbaijan only suffered losses" staying out of the Commonwealth.

Aliyev on Unity, Conditions for Political Pluralism

LD2909230993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, the acting president, called on all political forces to consolidate on the basis of ideas of national unity and declared that all necessary conditions for the functioning of various political parties in the republic will be shortly created in Azerbaijan. In his words, development of the principle of political pluralism is the major criterion which the present leadership intends to pursue.

At the meeting with the working staff of the Baku factory for producing household conditioners, which nominated Aliyev as a candidates of the republic's president, Aliyev presented a positive assessment of Azerbaijan's joining the CIS. He stressed the importance of economic integration of the former Soviet republics. In his opinion, interaction within the CIS, including political and military spheres, will meet Azerbaijan's national interests. At the same time he underlined that the republic's joining the CIS does not mean infringement on Azerbaijan's sovereignty and independence.

Azerbaijani leader also declared that today the major task of the present leadership is "to free all occupied Azerbaijani lands." He called on the country's population to mobilize all available forces and resources to fulfill this task. He believes that ceasefire in the conflict region reached under Russia's mediation "creates good prospects for stable peace in the region."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Karabakh formations control about 20

of the Azerbaijani territory, including the Lachin, Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Jebrail, and Kubatliy regions.

Unofficial consultations of the CSCE Minsk group to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh are underway in Paris. The press secretary of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Aram Safaryan told INTERFAX that "there are certain positive achievements" as "gradually Karabakh is accepted as an independent party in the conflict." In his words, the consultations will continue until all parties find "a common denominator" or, what is less desirable, "one of the parties categorically refuses to recognize and accept the proposed variants of truce." In Safaryan's words, Armenia still asserts that the Karabakh problem has no alternative but a political settlement and will accept all decisions to which the Karabakh party would agree.

Yeltsin Sends Message to Aliyev on Convicted Troops

NC2909193093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] We have just received a report from AZERTAC that President Boris Yeltsin has conveyed a message of thanks to Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and National Assembly. The message said:

Esteemed Geydar Aliyevich, I appreciate the placing of the six former Russian troops, who were tried in Azerbaijan some time ago, under the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice in Russia. I thank you for the effort you have made to resolve that problem. Russia has regarded the matter as a friendly and humanitarian initiative, which has strengthened good relations.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin

[Dated] 27 September 1993

Armenian Hopes for End of Azeri Blockade Dashed

MK2909151493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Armen Khanbabyan: "Azerbaijan's Joining the CIS Will Not Make Things Easier for Armenia]

[Text] To all appearances, Azerbaijan's accession to the CIS is going to have a weak impact on the situation in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri standoff. The extension for another month of the truce agreed to in Moscow by Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev may weaken tensions only along the border between the two states rather than on the Karabakh fronts. Since Armenia conducts no military actions in Karabakh, the military situation there will, as it did before, depend on further progress in the direct talks opened between Stepanakert and Baku rather than on directives from Yerevan.

People in Armenia had expected that following Azerbaijan's accession to the CIS, Baku would start to roll back the blockade around Armenia. It now appears that states may be members of the same military-political association and thus be considered strategic allies while at the same time continuing undisguised hostile actions against each other. This became clear after Geydar Aliyev declined to sign a document on rejecting blockades as a means of political pressure.

The reasons for this are understandable: The present Baku leader would not like to appear too accommodating shortly before the coming presidential elections. Yerevan perhaps hopes that Moscow will go ahead and put pressure on Azerbaijan to do this at least out of gratitude to the Armenian side, which played the key role in turning around Baku's foreign political course from Turkey toward Russia. It is also equally obvious that restoring Russia's strategic interests in Azerbaijan would have been totally out of the question without the Karabakh people's military victories that resulted in Elchibey's departure. These expectations of Yerevan may, however, prove shaky. First, the political situation inside Russia itself will objectively hardly permit the Kremlin to busy itself with peacemaking matters in the regions in the immediate future. Second, having achieved its goal and returned Azerbaijan to the sphere of Russian influence, Moscow will in time try to persuade Stepanakert and Yerevan this time, rather than Baku, to make concessions at least in order to demonstrate to its new ally all the benefits of cooperating with it.

Should events develop like this, a new spiral of the violent standoff between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan will be inevitable. Understandably, Stepanakert will never agree to unilateral concessions endangering the state's national security. Seeing the dashing of its own hopes for the end of the blockade, Armenia, in its turn, will stop using its prestige and economic levers to contain the Karabakh people's urge to go on with the offensive. And since Karabakh's subunits at the present time have a clear potential combat edge over the Azeri Army's power, the political situation inside Baku can be made dependent on the position on the fronts. Russia, out to play the role of the supreme arbiter in the chronic conflict, is obliged to take into consideration the high probability of such a prospect which, if realized, may lead to the emergence on the Azeri political scene of statesmen of totally unpredictable orientation and with a similarly unpredictable mode of behavior.

Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament to Resume Work

LD3009084193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0647 GMT 30 Sep 93

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Leonid Narsesyan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan September 30 TASS—A session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh will resume its work on Thursday.

The parliament had to suspend its work last week because of lack of a quorum caused by activization of combat operations.

Now that the situation has become relatively stable, the participants will resume discussing important issues concerning priorities in the foreign policy of the newly formed republic, laws on people's deputies' status and order of their recall and consider the decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Musavat Party Recalls Members From Regional Commissions

NC2909142093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1003 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 29.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Considering presidential elections October 3 illegal, "Musavat" party calls back all its members from regional commissions, says the statement of the party. All its members, elected to these commissions are obliged to stop activity in them, the statement says.

Georgia

Abkhaz Forces Advance Along Frontlines

Seize Babushera Airport

LD2909163793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 29 Sep—At 1130 today advance subunits of the armed forces of the Republic of Abkhazia broke through the Georgian defenses along the Machara river and seized Babushera Airport, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the press service of the Abkhazian Defense Ministry.

According to the source, a second grouping of Abkhazian troops reached the Kodori river and joined with the troops of the eastern front, thereby running the blockade of Tkvarcheli and Ochamchirskiy Rayon which has lasted for over 13 months. The remaining Georgian troops are being pushed to the coast and some of them are fleeing to the mountains, according to information available to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry.

Combatants Cross Psou River

LD2909183693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1605 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Here is information from the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry:

Combat actions continue in Abkhazia. Battles are now under way in Kelasuri. There are clashes in the neighboring territory [not further defined].

The enemy, like before, is still getting help in combat equipment and manpower.

Today, 15 Ikarus buses full of combatants crossed the Georgian border at the Psou river.

Ochamchire Under Attack

LD3009122093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] The situation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone remains complex. Abkhaz formations have launched active combat actions in Ochamchire rayon. Nikolay Mamulashvili reports:

[Mamulashvili] The situation is really complex. In any case this can be seen from an interview this morning on Georgian television with Georgian Vice Premier Avtandil Margiani, who was appointed the head of the Georgian rearguard in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone by the Georgian head of state.

According to Margiani, during the evening of 29 September, Abkhaz formations subjected Georgain government troop positions in Ochamchire rayon to mass shelling using Grad missile launchers, and launched an attack which was rebuffed. Later, Margiani said, there was chaos and complete disorder among commanders. However, he stressed, this does not refer to Generals Chumburidze, Barbakadze, and Kitovani.

According to Margiani, on 28 September units under the command of Tengiz Kitovani and also Loti Kobalia, the leader of armed formations of the former president's supporters, broke through the frontline near the settlement of Akhaldaba in Ochamchire rayon relatively easily and started to advance toward Sukhumi. However, to everyone's surprise, Loti Kobalia withdrew his subunits from this direction and disappeared. This way or another, his two battalions returned to Zugdidi. It is difficult to understand. It is possible that it was provoked by scare-mongering rumors spread by some refugees from Sukhumi, which reached the vanguard of Kobalia's troops.

Avtandil Margiani also said that there are people among the troops who deliberately disseminate disinformation and sow panic. He added that the main thing now is to secure the rearguard and stop panic of any sort.

The Georgian Defense Ministry has appealed to all the men to display determination, organization, and discipline, and to obey all the commanders' orders.

Ochamchire Captured

LD3009101193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Ochamchire, 30 Sep—An IBERIA correspondent has been told by the Georgian Defense Ministry Press Center that this morning the Abkhazian armed formations occupied the town of Ochamchire.

Georgian Armed Forces are now being deployed in the Gali rayon.

Further on Fall of Ochamchire

AU3009113093 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Tbilisi, Sept 30 (AFP)—Abkhazian separatists on Thursday captured the town of Ochamchire three days after seizing the provincial capital of Sukhumi, the Georgian Defense Ministry announced.

"Ochamchire has been taken," the ministry press chief spokesman, Iossif Marguichvili, said.

The fall of Ochamchire following that of Sukhumi Monday means that the separatists now control virtually all of Georgia's Abkhazia breakaway region.

Only the Gali region at the southeastern tip of Abkhazia remains under Georgian government control and authorities said they were concerned about the safety of residents in the area.

Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Avtandil Marguiani said earlier Thursday that Ochamchire was in "a very difficult situation" and denounced the lack of discipline among government troops, the majority of whom are stationed there.

Some 1,400 supporters of former Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who were in Ochamchire along with several thousand Georgian government troops, left the area late Wednesday to return to western Georgia, sources close to Gamaskhurdia said.

They said about 60,000 Abkhazian refugees from the region crossed into Georgia Thursday by using the road between Gali and Zugdidi, further south. An additional 14,000 were transported by boats to the Georgian Black Sea port of Poti from where helicopters overnight began flying them to central Georgia, they added.

In Greece, authorities said they had evacuated aboard a special plane overnight Wednesday 177 ethnic Greeks that had been living in Sukhumi.

Meanwhile, in Moscow a television station had reported earlier Thursday that Abkhazian separatists had broken the siege of the southern Abkhazian town of Tvkarcheli which had been surrounded by Georgian government troops for more than a year.

The report said that the rebels broke the siege on Wednesday, and had joined with other units near Ochamchire in order to block retreating government troops.

According to Interfax the rebels had reached the Kodori river, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Sukhumi, and were preventing reinforcement troops from reaching the area through the Black Sea coast.

The rebels have also taken control of the region's airport where Georgian troops abandoned their equipment and weapons and fled toward Tbilisi through the mountains, the television report said citing Abkhazian sources. [passage omitted]

Gali Expected To Fall

AU3009130493 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 30 Sep 93

[By Jean Raffaelli]

[Excerpt] Tbilisi, Sept 30 (AFP)—Abkhazian separatists captured the town of Ochamchire Thursday, bringing virtually the whole of the breakaway Georgian region under their control, Georgian officials said.

Following the fall of the capital Sukhumi on Monday, Georgian Government forces now control little more than the southeastern pocket around Gali, they said.

The former government administrator for the region, Tamaz Nadareishvili, told AFP he expected the separatists to take Gali soon and reach Abkhazia's border with Georgia. He blamed the general disarray in the country and the military's lack of responsibility.

The civilian population of Ochamchire fled the town overnight Wednesday as an artillery-backed separatist attack got under way, according to parliamentary sources able to contact officials at Gali and Ochamchire.

They said street fighting was in progress Thursday between separatists and government troops backed by forces loyal to the ousted Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has returned to Georgia and is seeking to overthrow Eduard Shevardnadze, his successor.

Nadareishvili did not rule out the possibility that the Abkhazian separatists would form an alliance with the Gamsakhurdia supporters.

"In the next few days, the Abkhazians will control all of Abkhazia as far as the Inguri River." he said.

Shevardnadze was to discuss the crisis Thursday with several western ambassadors stationed in Tbilisi, including U.S. Ambassador Kent Brown. [passage omitted]

Moscow Urges Negotiations

LD3009141093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 30 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 30 TASS—Abkhazian troops captured the town of Ochamchira at noon today and have advanced ten kilometres eastward, towards Gali, ITAR-TASS has learned from the headquarters of the task team of the Russian state committee for emergency situations, now working in Sochi.

"In light of the latest developments, today's action to evacuate refugees from Ochamchira will not take place," HQ chief Yuriy Dyakov said. According to Dyakov, the Russian side was prepared for the action, but Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba assured the Russian team that the Abkhazians guaranteed the safety of the peaceful population of the republic, irrespective of nationality, and urged the refugees, who have already left Abkhazia, to come back home.

A government team, headed by vice-chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers Nodar Khajba has begun work in Sukhumi. "The Abkhazian leadership's primary task," Ardzinba told Dyakov by telephone, "is to stabilise the situation as quickly as possible, to restore peaceful life and the economy, and to prepare for winter."

Head of the Russian part of the joint commission for settling the Abkhazian conflict Valeriy Shuykov told ITAR-TASS that he was alarmed by the breach of the Sochi ceasefire agreement and regretted it. Moreover, he stressed that the joint commission was tripartite and it adopted all its decisions jointly. Hence, attempts to blame the Russian side for what has happened are absolutely groundless.

"The Russian side has always favoured a peaceful solution of the conflict," Shuykov stated. "Unfortunately, the war is not over, because no political settlement of the problem was found. We again urge the conflicting sides, even in this most difficult situation, to get down to negotiations right away."

Gali Evacuated

LD3009142293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1330 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Gali, 30 Sep—According to an IBERIA correspondent, on the order of Rudik Tsaava, the administrator of Gali, an alert was issued at 1400 today and the evacuation of the town population started, fearing a possible attack from the Abkhazian armed formations. For the time being (1530), nearly the whole population

has been evacuated from Gali. Georgian armed forces are being deployed around the village of Achigvara. Local battles are under way.

Gali Falls

AU3009142893 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, Sept 30 (AFP)—Abkhazian separatist forces on Thursday captured the town of Gali, the last government-held stronghold in the breakaway republic after the fall of Ochamchire earlier in the day, an unofficial Georgian government source said.

The capture would bring the whole of Abkhazia under separatist control following the capture of the capital Sukhumi on Monday.

Refugees Caught in Middle of Conflict

Abkhaz Official Assures Safety

LD2909184893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Video report by D.Pugacheva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Pugacheva] Sokrat Dzhidzholia, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, at a meeting with journalists in Moscow today, gave an assurance that the Abkhazian authorities are adopting all measures to ensure the safety of the peaceful population of Sukhumi. Hostilities have stopped in the area where the refugees are being evacuated. He said that the bloodshed in the town was the result of the non-fulfillment of the main point of the Sochi agreements—the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazian territory. Yesterday, the republic's parliament adopted a statement saying that the Abkhazian side...

[Dzhidzholia, in progress] ...is prepared for talks. It is proposing not only to hold, but to cease firing and return to the fulfillment of the Sochi agreement and fulfill all the measures set out in it. However, this has to meet with the readiness of the Georgian side to support this proposal.

Over 30,000 From Sukhumi; 90,000 Enroute

LD3009062393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] According to RIA, over 30,000 refugees from the town of Sukhumi and surrounding villages, which were seized by Abkhazian forces, have managed to get to Svanetia [mountain range in Georgia]. A correspondent of that agency has been told at the emergency headquarters under the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers that up to 90,000 more refugees were moving toward the region along the Kodori river.

Non-Georgian Population Returning

LD3009112793 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 30 Sep—An IBERIA correspondent learned that the Abkhazian, Greek, and Armenian population were returning to Sukhumi, saying that their lives were not in any danger now that the territory had been cleared of Georgian occupants.

Russian Ship Protects Refugees

LD3009131393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Yesterday a barge with refugees from Abkhazia entered the port of Poti. When the barge had taken to sea, the Abkhazian artillery opened fire on the barge, as a result of which one refugee was killed.

Shelling stopped only after a Russian naval ship opened retaliatory fire.

Yesterday Poti received around 20,000 refugees.

Shevardnadze's Accusations Against Russia Viewed

PM3009093593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Shevardnadze Accuses Russia and Tries To Avoid Civil War"]

[Text] Tbilisi—During his news conference in Tbilisi immediately after his return from Sukhumi, Eduard Shevardnadze for the first time in the entire course of the Abkhazian war directly accused Russia of occupying part of Georgia's territory.

According to the Georgian leader the operation to take Sukhumi was elaborated in the Russian military headquarters and carried out with the direct participation of Russian military specialists. Shevardnadze stated that under present conditions he sees no point in meeting with President Yeltsin. He was also negative about starting the peace talks on the Abkhazian conflict which were planned for 30 September and were to have taken place in Geneva under UN auspices.

Shevardnadze stated that the main task facing Georgia now is to regain Sukhumi, regain the occupied territories and restore the country's territorial integrity.

Emotionally, one can understand the Georgian leader. Russia, acting as a mediator in the Georgian-Abkhazian talks, did not fulfill its function as guarantor of the attainment of peace in this region of Georgia. Moreover, every stage of the talks has been accompanied by the Abkhazian side's subsequent failure to fulfill the agreements which had been signed and by the Georgian troops' loss of territories controlled by Georgia. Following the Dagomys agreements signed last year Georgian troops were withdrawn from the Gagra City zone

and later that city fell. The result of the Sochi agreements achieved this summer was the partial withdrawal of Georgian troops and equipment from Sukhumi and then the Abkhazians' violation of these agreements and the taking of Sukhumi. In both cases this was not simply the seizure of territories by armed forces. These actions were accompanied by the most ruthless ethnic cleansing of the Georgian population living on those territories.

Throughout the war Russia, acting as the mediator between the Georgians and the Abkhazians, in this case too limited itself to general declarations and utterly unconvincing economic sanctions against the Gudauta leadership. Moreover, Russia's top leaders frequently during the war spoke of Russia's special strategic interests on Georgia's Black Sea coast, including Abkhazia and Adzharia. And the leadership of the Russian troops' task force in Gudauta has frequently demonstrated, including in the presence of numerous journalists, his sympathies toward the Gudauta leaders.

After all this and also after E. Shevardnadze had spent over 10 days in besieged Sukhumi and personally witnessed the dramatic moment of the city's fall, there was nothing left for the Georgian leader but to make such a drastic statement. Any other course on his part would not have been understood in Georgia.

But despite such radical steps by Shevardnadze it must be admitted that today marked confusion reigns in Georgia's ruling echelons. In Tbilisi they were convinced until the last moment that Georgia's Ochamchira grouping of armed forces would come to the aid of besieged Sukhumi and the threat looming over that city and its inhabitants would rally the Georgians, relegating political reprisals to the background. But the return of Georgian ex-president Z. Gamsakhurdia to Zugdidi at the most critical moment played a fatal role and Sukhumi together with all the city's defenders became the subject of political haggling and speculation.

In the rest of Georgia the Zviadists' actions were assessed as treason. But this hardly influences the present situation. The government troops have been drained and will be unable to resist the Abkhazians near Sukhumi. And the remaining Georgian forces deployed in Georgia's internal rayons are faced by formations loyal to ex-president Gamsakhurdia. Any movement on the Abkhazian salient could cause a clash between them and civil war.

That is why it is logical to suppose that E. Shevardnadze at this stage will take some time out to observe carefully the development of the situation inside Russia and in West Georgia. And then, when the situation becomes clear, he will again take diplomatic steps to achieve peace in Abkhazia. So far he has no other feasible way out of the situation which has taken shape.

Shevardnadze's Adviser Views Latest Developments

AU3009110493 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 29 Sep 93 p 2

[Telephone interview with unidentified adviser to President Eduard Shevardnadze by "M.L.L."; adviser in Tbilisi; date not given—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has been in Tbilisi since 28 September. The State Council will meet this week and a political decision is expected on the Abkhazian issue. Negotiations are being held between the government and the opposition about Abkhazia. Among other things, this is what we learned from a telephone conversation with a politician belonging to the inner circle of the president's advisers, a politician who requested to remain unnamed.

[M.L.L.] What is the latest news about the events in Sukhumi and about Eduard Shevardnadze?

[Adviser] Eduard Shevardnadze is in Tbilisi; he has returned to the capital.

[M.L.L.] Are there sill armed government forces in Sukhumi?

[Adviser] Yes, there are.

[M.L.L.] What is the size of these forces and what weapons do they have?

[Adviser] I should refrain from answering this question, all the more so because the situation is constantly changing.

[M.L.L.] Does this mean that the fighting continues?

[Adviser] Yes.

[M.L.L.] Are there troop deployments? Have you sent reinforcements?

[Adviser] I do not wish to speak about military matters.

[M.L.L.] When will the State Council meet and when will the Parliament discuss the issue of Abkhazia?

[Adviser] The president has begun negotiations and preparations for such an evaluation are under way. The official forums will probably meet on 29 September.

[M.L.L.] Could a decision be made on changing the status of Abkhazia? Could the affiliation of this territory come under question?

[Adviser] No. Abkhazia is part of Georgia; it is an autonomous area within Georgia. No one has questioned this, not even Russia. The talks can only focus on what solution to find within Georgia.

[M.L.L.] Are there contacts with the Georgian opposition? Are you conducting negotiations?

[Adviser] Yes, we are conducting negotiations.

[M.L.L.] In other words, you think that there is still hope for settling the conflict.

[Adviser] We have not given up hope. We will make use of every possible means to assert Georgia's legal interests.

[M.L.L.] How do you evaluate Russia's role in this? Is Russia involved in this conflict?

[Adviser] Yes. It is difficult to give a clear evaluation of the political role, but Russia is participating in the conflict through its citizens there.

[M.L.L.] Do you mean here the North Caucasian fighters who support the Abkhazians?

[Adviser] No, not primarily them. There are other Russians there too.

[M.L.L.] Russian soldiers?

[Adviser] Yes. Soldiers of the Russian Army.

Vice Prime Minister Says Battle Must Continue

LD3009115693 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Sep—On 29 September, Vice Premier Irina Sarishvili gave a news conference at the session hall of the parliament building.

She spoke about the situation in Abkhazia. She noted that the refugees who fled Sukhumi could travel with a great difficulty to a safe haven and those who remained in Sukhumi had probably already been exterminated. Sarishvili read out an appeal to all international organizations to save the remaining population in the town.

Replying to journalists' questions, the vice premier noted that Ochamchire and Gulripshi were shelled on 29 September and the population had to be immediately evacuated. In my opinion, she said, the troops must be withdrawn from Ochamchire only when it becomes necessary. According to Sarishvili, the battle must go on.

Parliamentary Speaker Warns Country's Days 'Numbered'

AU2909152893 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[Address by Parliamentary Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze "to members of the Georgian Parliament" on 17 September; place not given—first paragraph published in enlarged print]

[Text] What I want to say to you will arouse a certain amount of indignation. However, I no longer have any other option. I am obliged to tell you the truth. Georgia's days (possibly hours) will be numbered if events continue to unfold as they are doing now.

1. We believe that apparently everything will be regulated if the treaty with Russia is signed. Russia is not interested in this treaty. If we sign it, it will not have any real significance. Until we align our political course to that of the CIS, what is happening now will continue and will have a far more sorrowful end. When I met with Russia's military circles and asked them for help on account of the explosive situation in Abkhazia, their rep[illegible] was: How can we help you? Even if we very much wanted to, we could not help you as you are not a member of the "united defense." We do not have a legal basis for cooperation.

2. If things continue in this way, the country will die of hunger and soon of cold. The country has practically no money. Any economist who thinks that the fate of the coupon will be any different is detached from reality. It is possible for us to speak about an alternative, about the possibility of a relatively lower level of inflation. However, this was inevitable in that ruble ocean in which Georgia, like an island, found itself. Our prospects are almost zero. I have received frequent consultations on this question from economists. I ask them to dispense with the abstract words "we have to do something," "we have to bring in Western currency," and other such answers that are not answers. I ask my opponents to reply by giving their own prognosis and in a responsible manner: What concrete alternative are they proposing to us? Let them show us only a concrete way and not the art of general theoretical discussions.

3. Georgia's political orientation has traditionally been pro- western and pro-Russian. Today, this question is organically linked with the "Shevardnadze factor." Without superfluous philosophizing, let us view events realistically. The West has often given Shevardnadze's country more help than has been provided for in the legislation of these countries. Shevardnadze is the main factor in the political view of the West; this very great help on their part is very small for our country as help signifies providing the means to save oneself; in no way will God or a benevolent country save a person or a country. Shevardnadze is the only bridge to the West. Therefore, those forces that are fighting against the Shevardnadze course (we support Shevardnadze himself, they say) are willy-nilly fighting against the pro-Western course and promoting the pro- Russian one. It is shameful to argue about this. Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard has used his world authority and very great talent and experience. Georgia will be unable to receive more than this from the West. Those forces that are seeking the overthrow of Shevardnadze clearly realize they will not be looking toward the West. They will begin the traditional political artistry: Look, we did not want to be with Russia and everything is Shevardnadze's fault. We have to admit that the former president made one powerful discovery in building an entire ideology on the words of Batoni Konstantine's [Gamsakhurdia, writer and late father of deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia] evil character: Specifically, if you want to put a person out of action, you should accuse him of what he has been struggling against all his life. This principle became an incurable ailment from

which not only the "Round Table" [largest party in former Gamsakhurdia government] suffered. Our political consciousness was afflicted by this ailment—a godless, real atheistic search for sins in others and not in oneself, a search for one's own cunning in others, often in those who do not have it.

4. Have we achieved more independence than the countries belonging to the CIS? In no way. They became members of the UN before we did. Their diplomatic relations with other countries are better organized than ours. The world gave international recognition to a Georgia that was still an illegitimate state because of the Shevardnadze factor. We are now proceeding along the path of self-destruction and not self-development. I do not know in which way the CIS will develop in the future or what new name it will be given. However, I do know that not a single country is currently swimming against the tide as we are. Shevardnadze, with his titanic energy, has swum into the middle of Niagara Falls. He has done the maximum that is possible for a man to do.

5. Do we have an alternative? I ask all politicians and deputies to give me a concrete and responsible answer and propose to us a concrete way. "Who has brought the country to this point?" We have. Our political consciousness. Let us stop accusing one another and tell me: Is there such a way?! "Let us do something," "at any price" ["gavtsqdet"]—these words will not be sincere as their authors have never done anything at any price. Let us all share the sins that have befallen the country.

6. The author of these words is betrayed less by a feeling of reality. A lack of political fantasy is possibly to blame for this. I know well how I will be "praised" for this. I am proposing nothing to you. I am stating directly that I personally, as an ordinary citizen, am ready to put my signature to joining the new international commonwealth. Of course, there is no opportunity to present all the arguments in this short address. This will come later.

Vakhtang Goguadze

17 September 1993.

Envoy on Political Unrest, Relations With Russia, EC

BR2909164393 Brussels LE SOIR in French 29 Sep 92 p 2

[Interview with Ambassar to Belgium Zurab Abashidze (as published) by Pol Mathil; place and place not given]

[Text] [Mathil] "Sukhumi Falls: Georgia on Its Knees" screamed the LE SOIR headline Tuesday morning [28 September]. What was your reaction? How do you analyze the situation?

[Abashidze] Unfortunately, LE SOIR was correct. Georgia lost the battle for Sukhumi. The Russians did not keep their word, although in a telegram sent to Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Shevardnadze (president of Georgia, ed.) supposedly accepted all their conditions and agreed to join the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States).

[Mathil] What was Moscow's response?

[Abashidze] Silence.

[Mathil] Georgia is going to lose Abkhazia. Surely there is now a risk of a domino effect. Is the integrity of the State of Georgia in danger?

[Abashidze] Yes, there is that danger. The secession of Abkhazia, or even its incorporation into Russia, is possible.

[Mathil] Would it be incorrect, however, to say that the roots of the evil are to be found in Georgia itself? Is your country capable of overcoming the heritage of federalism and clan wars to become a modern state?

[Abashidze] I think that if Georgia had normal relations with its neighbors, especially with Russia, it would not have much trouble overcoming the current crisis.

[Mathil] How do you explain the fact that Georgia was beaten by Abkhazia, even though it boasted numerical superiority?

[Abashidze] Georgia does not have a regular army. We did not have the time to set one up, whereas the Abkhaz were bolstered by Russians, Chechens, and inhabitants of the Caucasus mountains. Above all, the Abkhazians were equipped by the Russians. In addition, while we were withdrawing our heavy weapons under the terms of the cease-fire, "unidentified" armored vehicles, airplanes, and missiles appeared from the Abkhaz side which knocked out our three civil aircrafts.

[Mathil] The fall of Sukhumi is also a personal defeat for Eduard Shevardnadze. Does he still have a political future in Georgia?

[Abashidze] Yes. Even his opponents admit that Shevardnadze is the only man capable of keeping Georgia together and getting it out of the crisis.

[Mathil] Surely Georgia shares responsibility for what happened? In August 1992 did it not try to chase the non-Georgians out of Sukhumi by employing a sort of ethnic cleansing in Abkhazia?

[Abashidze] We never did any such thing. On the other hand, my great fear is that we are now going to see atrocities and executions. The confrontations in August 1992 were caused by Abkhaz attempts to create a veritable borderline with Georgia and to annex the town of Sukhumi from the rest of the country.

[Mathil] Russia sponsored the cease-fire in Sochi. It alone was able to impose compliance with the cease-fire. Why did it not do anything to stop the Abkhaz when a beaten and humiliated Shevardnadze finally agreed to join the CIS?

[Abashidze] Russia acted as guarantor for the Treaty of Sochi, which makes its general attitude toward us even less comprehensible.

[Mathil] What is at the root of this attitude?

[Abashidze] The Russian parliament has never hidden its intentions toward us. Nor have certain groups within the Russian military, especially at regional level.

[Mathil] Can they possibly take action without being given the green light from Moscow? Are there people within the current Russian administration who dream of an empire?

[Abashidze] Absolutely. Vice President Rutskoi, for example, called Mr. Shevardnadze and threatened to send bombers over Tbilisi. He uses the maps formerly used by the staff headquarters of the Soviet Union. In the minds of certain Russian leaders, Georgia, Armenia, and Turkmenistan still belong to Russia. General Grachev, Russian minister of defense, has said that Transcaucasia is an area of strategic interest for Russia.

[Mathil] The only president who sent Mr. Shevardnadze a telegram of solidarity was Mr. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine. Do you think that Ukraine is in danger?

[Abashidze] Maybe. He understands us. He has had a similar experience (with Russian pressure in the Crimea affair and the Black Sea fleet, ed.).

[Mathil] Even more so than in Bosnia, Europe is looking on impotently as the drama in the Caucasus unfolds. Where is the CSCE and the Helsinki Conference, of which Georgia is a member? What policy should Europe adopt vis-a-vis the disintegration of the multinational states, such as the Caucasus?

[Abashidze] We are convinced that these international institutions could play an effective role in finding a solution to our crisis. Moreover, we have no alternative. The West could put pressure on Russia, as it did in the Russia-Baltic states dispute, so that Russia would lift its economic sanctions against Georgia and force Abkhazia to comply with the cease-fire.

[Mathil] Is it possible to return to the former status quo?

[Abashidze] I think so. If we allow the forceful disintegration of a multinational state, we will be setting a very dangerous precedent for the other countries. There will be regions—even small ones—which will demand their independence—especially in Russia. The message will be clear: Take what you can by force. The same message coming from Yugoslavia has not yet been understood well enough in Russia. The Balkans are far away. However, the message from Georgia will get through better, and will cause some damage. [Mathil] What are the few UN military observers already in Georgia doing?

[Abashidze] Practically nothing.

Gamsakhurdia Appeals for Unity, Mobilization

LD2909195393 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1550 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 29 September—Today, the head of the Zugdidi press center, Anna Chavchavadze, supplied Iberia with the following appeal of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia:

"The provocative war waged in Abkhazia by the illegal authorities that came to power as a result of putsch and bloody coup, brought a big calamity to Georgian people. The situation in Abkhazia has especially exacerbated lately. Abkhaz separatists and the units of mercenaries infiltrated Sukhumi. The news circulated by the illegal authorities claiming Sukhumi's fall and Abkhazia being lost does not correspond to the truth.

"Battles are still continuing in Sukhumi despite the fact that the largest part of the town has been captured by the separatists. The illegal, de facto authorities who had signed the perfidious, capitulatory agreement in Sochi, as a result of which Georgian combat units and military equipment were withdrawn, are completely responsible for the military failure of the Georgian Army. This weakened both fronts considerably and the separatists took advantage of it. The statement of the criminal and communist authorities claiming that our armed units had not helped Sukhumi soldiers in good time is another example of a lie and slander.

"Armed units of the legal authorities are fighting on the most crucial section of the Ochamchire front but their advance was hampered by the junta's sabotage and its hinderance. The equipment and manpower withdrawn from Abkhazia are now concentrated in Poti, Samtredia, Kutaisi, and Tbilisi instead of helping the legal units of the national guard led by Vakhtang Kobalia. This is what is making it impossible to widen the Ochamchire front, cross the Kodori river, and join the soldiers in Sukhumi. "The junta is seemingly exasperated by the return of the Gudauta group to Sukhumi, but it itself signed the agreement, one paragraph of which envisaged exactly this. Shevardnadze and his illegal regime are responsible for this national betrayal and history and the Georgian nation will judge him for it. "The legal government shall not accept the loss of this ancient part of Georgia. It is not giving up Abkhazia. The total mobilization will be announced in whole of Georgia in the immediate future, every armed force will be united under one military command, and we shall recapture the lost positions. "I call on the Georgian nation to unify and mobilize every national force in order to retain this beautiful corner by joint forces and save the population from deportation and genocide."

[Signed] President of the Republic of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Ardzinba Denies Responsibility for Shartava Shooting

LD2909221793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] An IBERIA correspondent learned that Ardzinba had said in his telephone conversation with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov that he personally was not responsible for the shooting of Shartava and that he had not issued such an order.

Abkhaz Official Denies Chechen, Russian Assistance

LD3009091293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Sokrat Jonjoliya, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, dismissed Tbilisi reports that "Sukhumi was captured by Russian, Chechen and Abkhaz fighters."

In response to an INTERFAX question at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday, Jonjoliya said that "people of the most diverse nationalities fight on the Abkhazian side but 90 percent of them are Abkhaz. It was they who liberated, not captured, the capital of their republic."

Jonjoliya placed the blame for the resumption of hostilities squarely on the Georgian authorities who, he said, did not withdraw their troops from Abkhazia or return Sukhumi to its legitimate authorities as provided for in the Sochi cease-fire agreement of July 27.

Moscow Accuses Abkhazia of Cease-Fire Violation

LD2909201293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze speaking in Tbilisi did not rule out that the Russian military was behind a plan for the capture of Sukhumi which he described as a large and irreparable loss, both morally and politically. He stressed the need for regaining the city.

Shevardnadze said that no words could describe the atrocities which took place during the seizure of Sukhumi by Abkhaz units. He spoke of mass executions of policemen, ministry and department employees and even ordinary citizens.

Shevardnadze said he had phoned Russian President Boris Yeltsin a few days ago and was ready for a meeting with him in Moscow. "But there is no sense in it after what has happened," he said.

During a meeting with Patriarch Ilya II of All Georgia on Tuesday, Shevardnadze said the country's worst enemy was the enemy within and he made a commitment to fight with all his strength against the traitors and for Georgia's unity and integrity.

"We should not give up weapons or complain and we must not be afraid of difficulties," said the Georgian leader.

He made it clear that Georgia had been dragged into a fight against Russia and at heavy odds at that. Shevardnadze spoke of having tried to make concessions on Georgia's behalf in matters on which the nation is split (meaning Georgia's agreement to join the CIS - IF [INTERFAX]) because a small step was need to rescue Sukhumi. At the same time, Shevardnadze said "Georgia must cooperate with its northern neighbor regardless."

For his part, the Patriarch said the fall of Sukhumi did not amount to Georgia's defeat adding that "this bitter test will help rally Georgia and lead us to moral purification."

The Abkhazian government meanwhile issued a statement on Tuesday agreeing to a halt in the fighting and to the implementation of the Sochi cease-fire agreement of July 27. The resumption of fighting on September 16, it says, was caused by Georgia's failure to comply with the terms of the cease-fire agreement and withdraw of heavy weapons from Abkhazia. The government accused Georgia of seeking to partition Abkhazia into two halves and retaining one half, which included the capital Sukhumi, for itself.

The statement says that despite previous Abkhaz proposals for a peaceful solution to the conflict, made after the outbreak of fighting on September 16, no agreement came from the Georgian side.

For its part, Moscow accused Abkhazia of violating its commitments under the Sochi cease-fire agreement. This has led to renewed violence for which there can be no justification, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said in a statement in Moscow.

He said "the Abkhaz government has failed to heed Russia's demands for halting the advancement of its forces and immediate talks on measures to enforce the cease-fire agreement." Karasin said banking on force was hopeless and that the military option has a boomerang effect.

At the same time, the diplomat said Moscow was surprised and concerned over the anti-Russian tone in statements made by the Georgian government, including by the country's head of state Eduard Shevardnadze.

Karasin said that both the Russian government and its representatives had done their utmost to try to restore peace to Abkhazia. Russia has for months been honoring its functions as a mediator and seeking to bring an end to the regional fighting, the diplomat said, but neither Russia nor its military contingent in Abkhazia were vested with the functions of a guarantor of the Sochi

peace agreement. "Veiled or direct attacks on Russia are unjustified and we reject them," Karasin said.

UN Envoy on U.S. Stance Toward Present Conflict

LD2909150193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] A letter has arrived at the staff of the head of state from Georgia's UN Envoy Petre Chkheidze, saying:

Following the development of the critical events on 27 September in Abkhazia, an appeal was sent to the Department of State, requesting the U.S. Administration to take measures toward saving Sukhumi. An address from Mr. Shevardnadze was also sent to the Department of State.

A meeting took place between U.S. President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Petre Chkheidze.

The American leaders expressed their concern about the events taking place in Abkhazia. They stressed that they would assist Georgia, first of all in restoring its economy.

The U.S. President expressed the hope that Mr. Shevardnadze, despite what has happened, will continue to work for the revival of Georgia.

Deep concern was expressed at the session of the General Assembly by the foreign ministers of Germany, Great Britain, and other states. They said that the process of assistance to Georgia would become even wider.

On 28 September, the U.S. Department of State circulated an official statement about the events in Abkhazia.

Military Courts Established in Major Towns

AU2909152193 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 4

[GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY report]

[Text] The Law "on Military Courts," on whose basis military courts have been introduced in the republic until judicial reforms are carried out, has been adopted by the Georgian Parliament.

Regional military courts have been formed on the territory of the republic: in Tbilisi with seven judges and in Kutaisi, Gori, Telavi, Akhaltsikhe, and Poti, each with three judges. The military court in Batumi is in the process of being brought up to strength.

The military court will examine crimes committed by servicemen, employees of the Information and Intelligence Service, and also officers and privates in the internal troops.

Parliament Outlines Functions During State of Emergency

AU2909144993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 16 Sep 93 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Activities of the Georgian Parliament During the Period of the State of Emergency" issued in Tbilisi on 15 September]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. Plenary meetings of the 1993 fall session of the Georgian Parliament are to be held after the state of emergency has come to an end.

The work of Parliament on elaborating and improving the most important legislative acts is to be conducted in commissions.

2. The members of the Georgian Parliament, as representatives of the highest body of state power, are to carry out work in the constituencies, making maximum use of the rights deriving from the status of a member of parliament; in accordance with the state of emergency, they are to supervise the activities of the local bodies of power and administration and hold consultations with the leaders of these bodies, the representatives of political and public organizations, and the electorate.

3. The convocation of emergency sittings of Parliament is regulated by the existing rules.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Rcheushvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament.**

Tbilisi, 15 September 1993.

Parliament Registers New 'Tankhoba' Faction

AU2909143593 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 17 Sep 93 p 2

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Registration of the 'Tankhoba' Parliamentary Faction" issued in Tbilisi on 15 September]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To register the "Tankhoba" [Accord] parliamentary faction made up of the following persons: J. Amirejibi, A. Beridze, Sh. Berianidze, A. Bregadze, T. Buachidze, A. Dolmazashvili, L. Vardosanidze, L. Tirkia, A. Kobaidze, T. Kopaleishvili, N. Kokhreidze, O. Litanishvili, G. Lortkipanidze, R. Miminoshvili, M. Mchedlidze, J. Patiashvili, M. Kajaia, Z. Kveladze, J. Charkviani, J. Tsitsishvili, I. Kharatishvili, R. Japaridze.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Finances with allocating additional funds to the "tankhoba" faction for maintaining auxiliary personnel.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament.**

Tbilisi, 15 September 1993.

'Free Press' Association Accuses NDP of 'Arbitrary Actions'

AU3009123393 Tbilisi DRONI in Georgian 22 Sep 93 p 2

["Statement by the 'Free Press' Association"; place and date not given]

[Text] 1. On 17 September, the independent information agency

IBERIA disseminated a statement by the Georgian National Democratic Party [NDP]. In connection with this fact, the "Free Press" Association states:

The principal idea expressed in the statement of the NDP press center "that the independent press is our enormous achievement" is, to put it mildly, an attempt to present the real situation in a different way. We, the representatives of the press, know best of all who has rendered what service in the matter of the liberation of the press. The freedom and independence of the press is, first and foremost, the achievement of the press itself and if any one else participated in this, at any rate, it was not the NDP.

After believing that it has been responsible for achieving the independence of the press, the NDP assumes the right to establish its control of the press and impose party censorship upon it. The statement that "as of today, we will already respond to any slander and insults in the way we feel is necessary" is not only an infringement of human rights and a restriction of the [freedom of the] press but also represents a statement on the establishment of individual rule.

The concluding part of the NDP press center statement that "as of today, we will no longer rely only on the imperfect law on the press" shows how impotent and weak this party is, as a political unit, in acting according to political methods and that it is trying by nonpolitical (by this we mean forceful) methods to extenr its own influence to the free press.

When a political party assumes the responsibility to state that it will not carry out a law that, in its opinion, is imperfect and acts in accordance with its own views when there exists no mechanism that can put an end to the arbitrary actions of a party or any political force, we can say that there exists the real danger of the establishment of a dictatorship and we view this party or political force as an organization that is seeking to establish its own dictatorship.

2. The "Free Press" Association believes that the attack on the editorial office of [the newspaper] 7 DGHE on the same day, 17 September, was the logical continuation of this statement; persons whose identity is not yet known carried out the attack precisely on behalf of the NDP. This was an unprecedented event: The editorial office was ransacked in daylight, during working hours, with incredible brazenness and violence. Those who carried out the attack made no secret of their aims or on whose behalf they were acting.

The "Free Press" Association expresses its extreme indignation at what has happened as it assesses this action not as an isolated act but as the beginning of a systematic and organized attack not only on the free press but also on any manifestation of different independent thought. That sociopolitical background, the attempt at whose creation was carried out, to our regret, with the help of certain mass media, which accompanied the dissemination of the statement by the press center of the NDP and the ransacking of the 7 DGHE editorial office, gives us grounds for affirming this. It would suffice to give as a significant example the radio interview with the NDP leader Giorgi Chanturia, which provided an emotionally extensive commentary on this statement.

We deem it necessary to state that the NDP, hiding behind the supremacy of state interests and democracy, appears to us as that force for whom party interests are the most important thing; moreover, the latter have, at best, nothing in common with the country's interests.

The "Free Press" Association:

REZONANSI

MIMOKHILVELI

IVERIA EKSPRESI

DRONI

AKHALGAZRDA IVERIELI

7 DGHE

The newspaper SARBIELI did not add its name to this statement.

Estonia

Meri Says Clinton 'Welcomes' Troop Withdrawal

LD2909165393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetsoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] In an interview with "Postimees" on Wednesday, President Lennart Meri of Estonia attached priority to the pullout of Russian troops from the Baltic states.

He reported that this problem was in focus at Monday's meeting between the Baltic leaders and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He emphasized that although Russia had withdrawn all its troops from Lithuania, security remained an urgent issue for it, since up to a million servicemen would cross its territory on their way to Kaliningrad.

Meri remarked that after the dissolution of parliament, the next prompt step for President Yeltsin was to prove that his action was as good as his word would be to pull the troops out of the Baltic region by January 1, 1994 (the deadline set by Latvia and Estonia) and, according to Meri, welcomed by Clinton.

Meri argues that the pull-out of troops is "an obvious step toward a security system that would guarantee stable development in Northern Europe or in what he called "Baltoscandia", covering a region from Finland to Poland, St. Petersburg included.

Luik 'Pleased' With U.S. Stance on Troop Withdrawal

WS2909140393 Tallinn BNS in English 1106 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] TALLINN, Sept 29, BNS—Defense Minister Juri Luik is pleased with the official position of the United States on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states.

"The official statement the U.S. administration made a couple of hours after the meeting between President Clinton and the Baltic leaders was worded very strongly," Luik said after returning from New York.

The minister said the United States insists on rapid, unconditional pullout of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia. Luik pointed out that the wording of the statement is considerably stronger than the final document of the 1992 Helsinki-2 conference.

"The United States is putting strong pressure on the Russian leadership," Luik said. He noted that the Baltic presidents were told at the meeting with Clinton that the United States supports Russian President Boris Yeltsin only on condition he continues democratic reforms in Russia and observes democratic principles in relations with other states. "It has been made clear to Russia, too," said Luik.

The defense minister was pleased also with the unequivocal statement that "none of the international delegations visiting Estonia have observed violations of human rights."

Pakistan Establishes Diplomatic Relations

WS2909153793 Tallinn EESTI RINGVAADE in English 20-26 Sep 93

[From News Review No. 121; received via Internet on-line service]

[Text] September 20—Estonian Ambassador to Sweden, Margus Laidre, and Pakistani Ambassador to Sweden Arshad Khan signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The agreement signed in Stockholm establishes relations at the level of non-resident ambassadors.

President Meri Receives Russian Ambassador

WS2909153893 Tallinn EESTI RINGVAADE in English 20-26 Sep 93

[From News Review No. 121; received via Internet on-line service]

[Text] September 23—President Lennart Meri received Russia's ambassador Alexander Trofimov. The Ambassador informed the President about developments in Russia and discussed the bilateral relations between Estonia and Russia.

Lithuania

President Brazauskas Addresses UN General Assembly

LD3009091793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2050 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Speech by President Algirdas Brazauskas at the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted including indistinct passages] Our state is reinforcing democracy, it respects human rights and the rights of national minorities. On the basis of a free market economy our state is aspiring to ensure social progress and a higher living standard. While taking part in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations we hope to make a contribution to the process of positive changes in the world. [passage omitted on Lithuania's links with world organizations]

After the parliamentary elections in Lithuania last autumn the government has changed. However, the [word indistinct] continuation of foreign policy of a

democratic country remained. The priority trend in our foreign policy is a closer cooperation with the Baltic states Latvia and Estonia. [passage indistinct] Lithuania is especially interested in having friendly and mutually beneficial relations with her neighbors: Russia, Poland, and Belarus.

Lithuania supports the attempts made by President Boris Yeltsin to stabilize the political situation in the country and to sustain (? the course of reforms).[passage indistinct]

Lithuania [words indistinct] is looking for her place on the new map of Europe. We are directing our attention to a closer cooperation among the states in the Baltic Sea region. An important aspect of such cooperation is our relations with Russia and our links with the Kaliningrad region. The interest of Lithuania, and it seems that it is also the interest of other states in the region, is a gradual demilitarization of this region while developing a free trade zone there. [passage indistinct]

Lithuania is open for cooperation with the West and the East and sees her future possibilities in this. [passage omitted]

We appeal to the United Nations asking for support in (?defending) the interests of smaller states. The integrated protection of the law in the world, democracy and the diversity of free states, are becoming more distinct. The international community should be prepared to defend the sovereignty of not large and even small states by force if such a need arises. [passage omitted including passage indistinct]

The Russian troops remain deployed in Estonia and Latvia. We hope that with the help of the United Nations this international problem will be solved and that this at the same time will reinforce the stability in the region. [passage indistinct]

We are setting up a democratic civic state in Lithuania, based on the superiority of the law where people are not divided depending on their nationality, religion or political convictions. There is no tension in our country between the Lithuanians and the national minorities. [passage omitted]

Nostalgia for the past is still alive in most of the post-communist countries when the authoritarian state ensured the minimal needs of the people at the expense of their freedom. If joint efforts are not taken in time these nostalgic feelings for the long socialist past could divert the development of some states into a direction undesirable to all of us. [passage omitted]

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 2246 GMT on 29 September, in its "Presidential Bulletin" feature, gives the following report on Brazauskas' UNGA speech: "Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, President Algirdas Brazauskas stressed that Lithuania was open for contacts with West and East alike. Such cooperation - he added is conducive for our further development.

"In his words, relations with the United States have been and will be of special significance for Lithuania. 'We are grateful to the U.S. for its refusing to accept Lithuania being a part of the USSR over many decades,' Brazauskas remarked. He appealed to the United Nations to safeguard the interests of small states. 'The International Community - he underlined - should be ready to defend by force, if necessary, the sovereignty of small and very small nations.' He also thanked the UN for focussing on efforts to phase out foreign military presence in the Baltic countries.

"He underscored the importance of the fact that Russian troops 'had left small Lithuania peacefully' and that Moscow set no ultimatum nor did it attach any strings to the withdrawal. 'A new clean chapter' is to be open in relations between Lithuania and Russia,' However, compensation for the damage done to Lithuania over the years of Soviet occupation was still crucial to talks with Russia, Brazauskas said.

"He regretted that industrialized nations quite often neglected Central and East European countries. 'Their conspicuously inadequate attention and support betray isolationist trends.' Such a course, he noted, adversely affects the former socialist states, compelling them to 'deal with the harsh economic, political, cultural and historical problems left over from the past on their own.'

"The Lithuanian leader admitted that many post-communist countries were still 'nostalgic for the pseudo-socialist past,' when 'the authoritarian state guaranteed the minimal needs of their citizens by restricting their freedom. If timely measures are not adopted, such trends could lead these nations into trouble.

"He recalled having proposed a post-communist summit to be held under the auspices of the European Community or any other world body. 'All of us in the post-communist countries should learn as quickly as possible how to maintain contact between ourselves and with the rest of the world in new conditions, so as to feel ourselves a worthy part of the global democratic community,' Brazauskas stressed.]